

# WEST CHICAGO

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023



### Explore What's Great Outdoors in West Chicago with WeGo Exploring

To help encourage the WeGo community to get out and be active outdoors, the partnership of the City of West Chicago and its City Museum and Healthy West Chicago and the West Chicago Park District have initiated the WeGo Exploring community initiative.

This family-friendly initiative aims to promote the importance of being active outdoors for physical and mental health while also highlighting the many places to go and things to do outdoors within the West Chicago community.

In addition to encouraging being active outdoors, special prizes will also be offered to residents who help promote the initiative by sharing photos of their outdoor activities.

Start your outdoor adventure and explore what's great outdoors in West Chicago at [westchicago.org/wegoexploring](http://westchicago.org/wegoexploring).

## Mayor Pineda Proclaims State of City is as "Strong as Ever"

Mayor Pineda expressed that the state of the City is "as strong as ever" as he drew comparisons of the City's current status to that of a "high-powered and laser focused locomotive" during his State of the City Address on May 15.

During the Address, Mayor Pineda spotlighted the City's infrastructure, local economy, status of the City's workforce, and community highlights including updates on public safety, communications and upcoming special projects.

Notable features from the Address included the following.

- The City completed over \$4.7 million in infrastructure projects in 2022, and has budgeted approximately \$9.2 million dollars towards additional capital improvement projects and programs for 2023.
- The City saw the private investment of \$95 million in new construction investment for 2022 and an additional \$66 million in 2023 thus far.
- DuPage County will fund a \$20 million project that will reconstruct and widen Fabyan Parkway to four lanes from IL-38 to the Kane County line.
- The City welcomed 64 new businesses that employ a total of 427 individuals in 2022.
- The City as an organization of 116 employees is almost fully staffed.
- West Chicago was ranked the ninth best place to live for families by Fortune Magazine
- The City's Police Department is almost fully staffed and has experienced numerous promotions within its ranks.
- The City is in the process of planning a new park at the former Kerr McGee site along Weyrauch Street through a \$2 million Federal grant.
- The City is in the process of transforming Sesquicentennial Park into a new floral grounds

with creations from Ball Horticultural

In addition to the above highlights presented during the Address, Mayor Pineda also emphasized the resurgence of interest in the downtown area, continued development in the DuPage Business Center, the return of multiple community events, and other positive City and community achievements.

As he closed, Mayor Pineda stated, "The City is on its way to great things, and [the City] has the solid infrastructure and economy, along with an amazing workforce and community, to ensure that we can go wherever we want to go."

Residents can view the full transcript from the event at [westchicago.org/mayor](http://westchicago.org/mayor).



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West Chicago, IL 60185

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## CITY COUNCIL

### Mayor

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Dan Beebe  
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### Ward 2

Jayme Sheahan  
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Heather Brown  
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### Ward 3

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### Ward 6

Rebecca Stout  
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Jeanne M. Short  
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### Ward 7

Joseph Morano  
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### City Administrator

Michael Guttman



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

to our valued partners at the Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce for their exceptional efforts in organizing another memorable festival.

As mentioned on the first page of this newsletter, I had the opportunity to deliver a State of the City Address, where I highlighted many great achievements. These included the allocation of nearly \$14 million toward enhancing the City's infrastructure and the exciting announcement of a future community park at the former Kerr McGee site. West Chicago continues to experience remarkable progress, and the presentation of accomplishments and upcoming projects should instill residents with a sense of enthusiasm and excitement for what's to come.

Most recently, the City was provided with a

Grant Agreement from the State of Illinois that will provide funding for the final environmental remediation of the property along West Washington Street. Additionally, the City anticipates similar agreements providing funding for a new traffic signal at the intersection of Roosevelt Road and Technology Boulevard and the painting of the Fremont Street Water tower.

The City is grateful to be moving forward with these important projects, and I'd like to thank State Senator Karina Villa who continues to advocate on the City of West Chicago's behalf to acquire these grant funds.

As you enjoy the summer season, I encourage you to seize the opportunity to celebrate the many ways that West Chicago is moving forward.

## CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Oath of Office taken for two new City Council members, Dan Beebe (Ward 1) and John C. Smith, Jr. (Ward 5); and five incumbents Jayme Sheahan (Ward 2), Alton Hallett (Ward 3), Melissa Birch-Ferguson (Ward 4), Rebecca Stout (Ward 6), and Joseph Morano (Ward 7)

- Approved Resolution executing a Professional Services Agreement with FGM Architects, Inc. to perform a Space Needs

Assessment Study for a future City Hall facility located on and around 119 W. Washington Street.

- Approved Resolution Approving an Electronic Attendance Policy for West Chicago City Council and Standing Committee Meetings

- Approved Ordinance amending the West Chicago Code of Ordinances for an update to the City's Personnel Rules

- Approved Resolution terminating the City's Local Disaster Emergency COVID-19 Proclamation

*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](http://westchicago.org/wcgovernment/meeting-minutes-agendas).*

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION & RESOURCES

### Art Banner Exhibit "People's Choice Award" Contest

View 26 large banners placed throughout the City's downtown area on streetlight poles that feature unique artwork created with the theme of 'Vitality/Vitalidad', and make sure to also vote on your favorite artwork as part of the exhibit's "People's Choice Award".

To view a digital map showcasing where artwork is located, and to vote on your favorite, please visit [westchicago.org/artbannerexhibit](http://westchicago.org/artbannerexhibit).

### Coffee with the Mayor

Join Mayor Pineda from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 29 at the West Chicago City Hall for an informal discussion of community items of interest and a fresh cup of coffee from Kindred Coffee Roasters.

### Learn About Construction Projects Impacting Your Area on the City's Website

The City has multiple large construction projects underway as part of various Capital Improvement Projects and Programs.

Residents can visit [westchicago.org/capitalimprovement](http://westchicago.org/capitalimprovement) to learn more about the scope of work and the areas of impact for current and upcoming projects.

### Upcoming Brush Collection Program Dates

The City's Brush Collection Program provides residents a monthly opportunity to place brush out for pickup. Brush may be placed at the curb up to two days prior to the initial brush pickup date for the month. Brush collection does not coincide with regularly scheduled garbage/recycling collection

days. The upcoming dates are as follows:

- Monday, August 7 (brush may be placed no earlier than Saturday, August 5)
- Tuesday, September 5 (brush may be placed no earlier than Sunday, September 3)
- Monday, October 2 (brush may be placed no earlier than Saturday, September 30)

For more details about this Program, please visit [westchicago.org/brush-collection-program](http://westchicago.org/brush-collection-program).

### City Offices Closed September 4; No Garbage Pickup

Non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day. Garbage and recycling collection will be delayed by one day this week.

## Printed Newsletter Set to End In 2023

The City will be discontinuing the printed newsletter, with the final newsletter being sent in October 2023.

As the public continues to increase its reliance on technology while declining its reliance on print media, in addition to increased production costs, the City will be allocating its efforts towards matching this continuing trend to ensure City information is shared efficiently and across the multiple platforms that our residents regularly use.

# City Welcomes New K9



The City welcomed a new K9, Kane, to its ranks in May.

Kane will be the second of two K9s for the City. His role will be different from the Department's other K9, Mondo, as he will not undergo any protection or apprehension training, which means he will not be trained to bite. By avoiding this type of training, Kane will be more suited to safely interacting with civilians during presentations and public events, including school visits where he may provide services similar to a comfort dog.

Kane will be handled by Officer Rick Sauseda, who has

been with the City for 17 years and has 10 years' experience as a Field Training Officer. He was also responsible for writing the proposal that restarted the K9 Program, which led to the Department's acquisition of Kane and Mondo.

Kane and Officer Sauseda recently underwent training in June at the Kane County Sheriff's Office, and both are now ready to go to work in the community as part of the Department's new Targeted Response Unit.

As a newly initiated unit of the Department, the Targeted Response Unit serves as a proactive team dedicated to

addressing community concerns such as speeding, overweight vehicles, drug dealing, and gang complaints. In addition, the Unit members also actively engage with the community on quality-of-life matters and participate in special events.

The City is excited to welcome a second K9 to its Police Department, as the combination of Officer Sauseda's experience, along with the presence of Kane, will greatly assist with strengthening the bond between law enforcement and the community.





## Police Department Providing Freezer Pops through Summer Season

**W**est Chicago Police Department personnel are partnering with Jel Sert to participate in the company's Freezer Pops From Cops Program.

As part of the Program, West Chicago Police Department officers have been stationed at different parks and neighborhood locations throughout the summer season. Officers on-site have been giving away free Fla-Vor-Ice freezer pops, playing games, and showing their support to the community.

Residents are encouraged to attend upcoming events in their neighborhood locations on the following dates.

- Tuesday, July 18 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Timberlake Apartments
- Thursday, July 27 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Reed-Keppler Park
- Tuesday, August 1 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at West Chicago Police Station – National Night Out
- Tuesday, August 4 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Aspen Ridge Apartments
- Wednesday, August 9 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Hampton and Prince Crossing Park
- Friday, August 18 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Cornerstone Lakes Park
- Wednesday, August 23 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Meadow Woods Park
- Tuesday, August 29 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Reed-Keppler Park

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Unplug Illinois Fit & Fun Fest

Saturday, July 15  
10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Fun Run Begins at 9:00 a.m.  
ARC Center

Unplug with the West Chicago Park District and enjoy a day of fitness and fun, free activities, entertainment and more. To kick off the event, a Family Fun Run will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Visit [we-goparks.org/special-events](http://we-goparks.org/special-events) for more details.

### National Night Out

Tuesday, August 1  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
West Chicago Police Station  
325 Spencer Street

This special evening provides an opportunity for community members to come together to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while having some family fun.

### Taco & Art Fest

Saturday, August 19  
3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Reed-Keppler Park

Join the West Chicago Park District staff at Reed-Keppler Park for live music, entertainment, art, children's activities and Taco Wars, where local food vendors will compete for the title of Best Taco.

Visit [we-goparks.org/special-events](http://we-goparks.org/special-events) for more details.

### Food Festival

Saturday, August 26  
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Downtown West Chicago

West Chicago's Food Festival returns this August with over 20+ of the area's best food vendors. Enjoy a summer evening filled with live music, beverages, fun activities for all ages, and, of course, tons of great food to try out! Entry to the event is free.

Visit [westchicago.org/foodfestival](http://westchicago.org/foodfestival) for more details.

### Mexican Independence Day Celebration

Saturday, September 16 and  
Sunday, September 17  
1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Downtown West Chicago

Celebrate Mexican culture and heritage through a two-day event hosted in the downtown. The event is sponsored by the City of West Chicago and organized by the Mexican Cultural Center DuPage and features a wonderful weekend of music, food, art and culture.

Visit [mccdupage.org](http://mccdupage.org) for more details.

### Healthy West Chicago 5K Fun Run

Saturday, September 23  
Beginning at 7:30 a.m.  
Reed-Keppler Park

Healthy West Chicago's annual 5K Fun Run event is featured on a 5K Certified Course on the Illinois Prairie Path at Reed-Keppler Park near Zone 250 at 201 West National Street. The event starts at 7:30 a.m., and also features a one-mile youth run beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Visit [healthywestchicago.org](http://healthywestchicago.org) for more details.

### Gallery 200 Art Exhibits

103 W. Washington Street

Visit [peoplemadevisible.com/gallery-200](http://peoplemadevisible.com/gallery-200) for more information about exhibits and gallery hours.

### Monthly Art Exhibits

• July: Artwork from Christopher Hodge that includes various narrative ink drawings. Opening reception is Friday, July 7 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- August: Collection of work from botanical artist, Marge Hall, featuring large-scale oil paintings of flowers. Opening reception is Friday, August 4 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- September: Kari Pozzessere's "Magical Wilds" exhibit featuring a mixed media collection of artwork inspired by the enchanting world of Scotland and Ireland. Opening reception is Friday, September 1 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

### West Chicago City Museum Events

132 Main Street

Visit the Friends of the West Chicago City Museum's website [www.wegohistory.com](http://www.wegohistory.com) for more information about exhibits, events, and museum hours.

### Historiography: Museum Non-Fiction Book Club

Thursday, July 20; Thursday, August 17; Thursday, September 21  
1:00 p.m.

Join the City Museum staff for a series of discussions about featured monthly history books.

### WeGo Exploring Scavenger Hunts

Win prizes while checking out West Chicago History around the downtown through monthly scavenger hunts. Monthly scavenger hunt details will be posted to the City Museum's website, or can be picked up during City Museum hours.

### Fascinating Fridays at the City Museum

Join the West Chicago City Museum for its summer free drop-in art making events on Friday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. from June 16 through August 25.