

WEST CHICAGO

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

Community Paper Shredding and Medical Disposal Event is June 3



The City invites residents to its annual Paper Shredding and Medical Disposal event on Saturday, June 3.

This event will be held at the METRA Parking Lot at 508 Main Street from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with paper shredding available until trucks have reached their capacity. This event is open to local businesses and residents only.

Paper Shredding

Participants can bring up to 10 standard office-sized boxes of documents to be destroyed on-site. Documents/paper may also be brought in plastic bags. All binders, rubber bands, binder clips, page protectors, plastic bags, plastic file tabs, CDs, vinyl checkbook holders, batteries, and other hard items must be removed.

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Let the Good Times Bloom

Blooming Fest Returns to the Downtown Area on Saturday, May 20

Get ready to welcome spring and let the good times bloom with the City of West Chicago's annual Blooming Fest event. Downtown West Chicago will come alive with the sights, sounds, and scents of the new season as part of the City's annual spring celebration on Saturday, May 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This festival is a great opportunity for residents and visitors of all ages to enjoy the warmer seasonal weather while supporting the local community.

One of the main attractions of the event is the large plant sale hosted by the West Chicago Garden Club where attendees will have the chance to view and purchase over 5,000 plants. While gardening enthusiasts will enjoy developing their green thumbs at the plant sale, visitors can also browse through more than 50



craft, garden, and food vendors.

Live music will also be featured, with musical artists Dillon Riley and Leroy Winn performing for attendees. Event-goers can enjoy the performances while soaking up the spring atmosphere, or while viewing the City's annual Art Banner Exhibit, which will be on display along Main Street and Galena Street.

The family-friendly event also offers several areas designed specifically for younger attendees, including the kidZone, featuring a bubble show, face painter, balloonist, and

other exciting activities sponsored by various community organizations. Children and adults alike will also enjoy the Animal Quest Animal Show, which will feature exotic creatures for everyone to learn about and view in person.

The City's Blooming Fest event is a great way to celebrate the arrival of spring while supporting local businesses and organizations. Visitors of all ages can expect a fun-filled day of plant shopping, live music, and family-friendly activities.

For more details about the event, visit the City's website at westchicago.org/bloomingfest.



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

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City Administrator

Michael Guttman



As spring arrives, West Chicago is once again experiencing blooming plant life along with the sense of renewal and excitement the season brings. As we embrace the new season, I would also like to draw attention to the new opportunities blossoming within the City over the next few months.

Beginning in May, visitors to the downtown area will once again see a series of wonderful artwork on display as part of the West Chicago Art Banner Exhibit. The exhibit is in its fifteenth year, and will feature 26 different artworks from local and regional artists. As you enjoy the exhibit, make sure to visit the City's website to vote for your favorite artwork, which will be

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

selected for the 2023 People's Choice Award.

With the return of spring, comes the City's first main event of the year, Blooming Fest. Serving as a great way for both residents and visitors to enjoy our downtown area, the special event features a large plant sale, a multitude of vendors, live entertainment, and activities for all ages. I encourage everyone to come together as a community as we celebrate the new season in West Chicago on Saturday, May 20. Also, please join me with Coffee with the Mayor during the event from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the City of West Chicago's booth.

To further encourage walking outdoors and exploring our community, the City of West Chicago and Healthy West Chicago will be introducing a new fun initiative this spring: WeGo Walks. This initiative will be a fun way for community members to engage in

physical activity while having fun and winning prizes. Make sure to follow the City on social media or sign up for the City's e-newsletter for future details.

Lastly, as you begin to enjoy outdoor walks, you will also see work being conducted at Sesquicentennial Park along Main Street. The City of West Chicago and Ball Horticultural have partnered together to transform the Park into a botanical display featuring Ball Horticultural's creations. This exciting project is intended to attract visitors from West Chicago and beyond.

The beginning of spring is a wonderful time of the year and an equally great time to explore new activities and experiences. As we welcome the new season, I hope you can find time to enjoy of these upcoming opportunities while connecting with fellow community members.

CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved Ordinance executing the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network Agreement which enables the City to provide and receive mutual aid response when confronted with emergencies
- Approved contract for the 2023 Parkway Tree Planting Program which will consist of the planting of 130 parkway trees in various locations
- Approved the Blooming Fest event for Saturday, May 20, 2023, and Food Fest event for Saturday, August 26, 2023
- Approved Resolution adopting the 2023 Official Zoning Map for the City
- Approved the adoption of a Complete Streets Policy to put the City in better positioning to secure federal funding for new larger developments and major construction projects in the future
- Conditionally approved the Application for Local Siting Approval for Lakeshore Recycling Systems, LLC, for a new municipal waste transfer station in 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.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Yard Waste Collection Underway

Yard waste collection is underway and runs through November 30. During this time, yard waste materials are able to be collected on primary collection days. All yard waste, including leaves, must be placed in a 95-gallon yard waste cart or a "Kraft" biodegradable paper bag with one universal sticker affixed for collection. No plastic bags or metal containers may be used for yard waste collection.

Visit the City's website at westchicago.org/yardwaste for more information.

Free Leaf Collection Available through April 14

Free leaf pickup is available for residents through Friday, April 14. During this period, the City's contracted refuse collector, Groot, will collect leaves at no additional cost on residents' regularly scheduled garbage collection dates. Leaves must be placed in brown lawn refuse bags, and placed within the parkway for collection. No refuse stickers are required during this period.

Volunteers Needed to Help Clean the Great Western Trail

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 29 to help with the cleanup of the Great Western Trails and the Illinois Prairie Path. Participants are asked to bring work gloves and

garbage bags to help pick up litter along the Great Western Trail end point at Sassafras Drive in West Chicago. Cleanup begins at approximately 9:00 a.m.

If interested in volunteering, please contact the City of West Chicago's Volunteer Coordinator, Alderman Christine Dettmann, at cdettmann@westchicago.org.

Coffee with the Mayor

Join Mayor Pineda from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 29 at the West Chicago City Hall and on Saturday, May 20 at the Blooming Fest event for an informal discussion of community items of interest.

Spring Hydrant Flushing through April 30

City staff is conducting spring hydrant flushing through April 30, weather permitting. The work is primarily completed between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. with signs posted in areas prior to hydrant flushing.

Brush Collection Program Spring 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 spring dates are as follows:

- Monday, May 1 (brush can be placed no earlier than Saturday, April 29)
- Monday, June 5 (brush can be placed no earlier than Saturday, June 3)

For more information about the Brush Collection Program, please visit westchicago.org/brushcollection.

City-wide Bulk Item Collection Event Is May 1 through May 5

The City's Bulk Item Collection Event is Monday, May 1 through Friday, May 5. As part of the event, residents can place multiple acceptable bulk items out for collection at the same time by affixing eight universal stickers on the collection of items. The items will then be collected on residents' regularly scheduled garbage/recycling pickup days.

Visit the City's website at westchicago.org/bulkcollection for more information.

City Offices Closed May 29; Garbage Pickup Delayed

Non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day. Garbage and recycling pickup will be delayed by one day this week.

Remember to Leash Your Dog

With the return of warmer

weather, please remember that the City Ordinance prohibits dogs from running at large. Apart from following the City Ordinance, having your dog on a leash when in public or open spaces, protects them and others from any possible altercations that can have negative results for all parties.

If you encounter a dog running around without a leash please distance yourself from the animal and then call the West Chicago Police at 9-1-1.

Tree Survey Being Conducted through July

A tree survey contractor, Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management, is conducting a detailed inventory of the urban forest through July as part of the Urban Forestry Management Plan. Residents should be aware that survey crews wearing identifiable vests stating "Tree Survey" may be inspecting trees in the public parkway areas between their residential property lines and public streets.

Vacation Watch Program

The Vacation Watch Program offers free residential security checks by the West Chicago Police Department staff for vacationing or hospitalized residents. If you are making plans for a vacation, please consider utilizing this Program by visiting westchicago.org/departments/police.

Community Paper Shredding

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Medication and Sharps Disposal
The DuPage County Sheriff's Department staff will be

accepting the following on-site:

- Expired or unused medications and vitamins. Please place all pills and ointments in a zip-lock bag; please do not bring pill bottles.
- Medical sharps including

syringes, epi-pens, lancets, and needles. Please place all collected sharps in a thick plastic container, such as a laundry detergent bottle, and secure lid with tape.

- Inhaler canisters. Please do not bring holders.

This event is offered through the partnership of the City of West Chicago, the West Chicago Environmental Commission, SCARCE, the DuPage County Sheriff's Office, and DuPage County.



Fireworks at Dusk!
Fuegos Artificiales al Anochecer
Saturday / Sabado

Kids Zone! / Zona Para Niños
Saturday / Sabado
Noon - 2:00 PM

Thursday / Jueves June/Junio 22

Carnival, Beer Garden & Entertainment 5:30 – 10:00 PM
el Carnaval, Jardin de la Cerveza & Entretenimiento 5:30 – 10:00 PM

Friday / Viernes June/Junio 23

Carnival, Beer Garden & Entertainment 5:30 – 11:00 PM
el Carnaval, Jardin de la Cerveza & Entretenimiento 5:30 – 11:00 PM

Saturday / Sabado June/Junio 24

Carnival, Beer Garden & Entertainment 1:00 – 11:00 PM
el Carnaval, Jardin de la Cerveza & Entretenimiento 1:00 – 11:00 PM

Sunday / Domingo June/Junio 25

Carnival, Beer Garden & Entertainment 2:30 – 10:00 PM
el Carnaval, Jardin de la Cerveza & Entretenimiento 2:30 – 10:00 PM

Wrist Band Specials / Pulsera Especial \$30.00

Thursday/ Jueves 5:30 - 10:00 PM
Saturday / Sabado 1:00 - 5:00 PM
Sunday / Domingo 2:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Limited Bus Service / Servicio de Autobús Limitado:
Saturday / Sabado 6 - 11 PM



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cinco de Mayo Color Crawl

Friday, May 5
6:00 p.m.
Reed-Keppler Park

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a fun run, or walk, through Reed-Keppler Park as you're showered with vibrant colors using safe biodegradable materials. The cost to participate is \$25, and those registering by April 19 will be guaranteed a commemorative t-shirt. This event is organized by the West Chicago Park District. Visit we-goparks.org for more details.

Blooming Fest

Saturday, May 20
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Downtown West Chicago

Come explore West Chicago's historic downtown area during the City's Blooming Fest event on Saturday, May 20. The event features a large plant sale, craft and food vendors, live music, and family-friendly activities. Visit westchicago.org/bloomingfest for more information.

West Chicago Art Banner Exhibit

Beginning in May
Downtown West Chicago

Visit downtown West Chicago to

view the City's annual art banner exhibit that features artwork from 26 different local, regional, and national artists. Each year artists submit their work to be part of this unique exhibit with only a select number of artworks to being incorporated into the Exhibit which features the reproduced works streetlight pole banners. Visit westchicago.org/artbannerexhibit for more details.

Touch-A-Truck

Saturday, June 3
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Reed-Keppler Park

Enjoy a free family-friendly experience sponsored by the West Chicago Police Department and the West Chicago Park District. The two hour event provides children with an opportunity to explore, discover, and climb on a variety of vehicles including big rigs, fire engines, police cars, and more. Follow the Police Department's social media platforms or visit the City's website for more information.

Railroad Days

Thursday, June 22 through
Sunday, June 25
Pioneer Park

Enjoy West Chicago's annual

community festival featuring live music, food, entertainment, carnival rides, fireworks, and more. Visit westchicagorailroaddays.com for more details.

Gallery 200 Art Exhibits

103 W. Washington Street

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

Monthly Art Exhibits

- April: West Chicago Community High School students will be displaying their artwork at Gallery 200 beginning Thursday, April 6 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- May: To complement the West Chicago's Blooming Fest, Gallery 200 will host a special exhibit inspired by spring beginning Friday, May 5 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- June: Kathi Kuchler's "Past Memories and New Beginnings" Exhibit featuring botanical and landscape paintings begins Friday, June 2 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

West Chicago City Museum Events

132 Main Street

Visit the Friends of the West

Chicago City Museum's website www.wegohistory.com for more information about exhibits, events, and museum hours.

Historiography: Museum Non-Fiction Book Club

Thursdays; April 20 at 11:00 a.m., May 18 at 1:00 p.m., and June 15 at 1:00 p.m.

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

"We Go Together" Exhibit

Opens Friday, April 21

The City Museum will open a new exhibit, "We Go Together", which will explore moments in history where the community has come together in times of good and times of need. The opening reception for the exhibit is Friday, April 21 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The exhibit is part of the Museum's 18-month celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Turner, West Chicago's first official name; and the 175th Anniversary of the railroad junction that created the community that is the City of West Chicago.