

Friends Newsletter

FRIENDS OF THE WEST CHICAGO CITY

DATES TO REMEMBER

- August 13 noon -3:00 p.m. Communication on the Railroad @ the Museum
- October 7 6:30 p.m. Tales Tombstones Tell @ Oakwood Cemetery
- December 3 4:00-7:00 p.m. Frosty Fest Downtown West Chicago

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TALES TOMBSTONES TELL



City Museum for the **22nd year of Tales Tombstones Tell** in Oakwood Cemetery, at York Street and Oakwood Avenue.

Lanterns and candlelight illuminate your path through the cemetery as costumed interpreters reveal the life stories of selected former residents buried at Oakwood.

continuously every 10 minutes, with the last tour getting started at 7:45 p.m. Tales Tombstones Tell is appropriate for families. Refreshments will be served after the program in St. Mary's Church basement. The program is free, but donations are encouraged. No reservations needed, first come, first served. Program will be canceled in the case of inclement weather.

Take a stroll through West Chicago's oldest cemetery on **Friday, October 7th**. Join the

Tours, which last 45 minutes, begin at 6:30 p.m. and run

Questions? Call the Museum at (630)231-3376.

OAKWOOD CEMETERY

Oakwood Cemetery is truly one of our most studied local historical sites. Over the last several years two volunteers, Cheryl Waterman and Dennis Schuett, have surveyed the graveyard for inclusion on the website Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com). They have spent hundreds of hours walking the cemetery, recording grave sites and tombstone inscriptions for the 1,471 known interments at Oakwood Cemetery. Photographs taken of each tombstone provide a valuable record as erosion renders the stones less readable each year.

Obituaries and historic portraits of the deceased, if available, are included as well. Relation of the deceased to others in the cemetery (sister, wife, etc.) is noted.

It is random acts of genealogical kindness such as those performed by Waterman and Schuett that we recognize and salute for their preservation of West Chicago's historical record.

FOLKSINGER MARK DVORAK BRINGS HISTORIC SONGS TO DEPOT DAYS

On June 11, Chicago folksinger Mark Dvorak helped the Museum celebrate Depot Day. Performing "Songs from the American Railroad," Mark brought the long his-

tory of railroading back to life at the CB&Q Depot at 134 Turner Court. There were three, half-hour performances: 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30. It was an informative and

entertaining program with special emphasis on music from America's railroading tradition. Thank you also to Len Mahony for sharing some of your railroad memories with us and as always Phil Weibler for capturing the wonderful day through these great images.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

"We shape our buildings; thereafter, our buildings shape us." Winston Churchill

The Friends of the West Chicago City Museum is busy producing its 3rd Annual Community Calendar. The 2012 calendar will feature comparative West Chicago scenes from past and present. If you would like to list any community dates in the calendar please contact

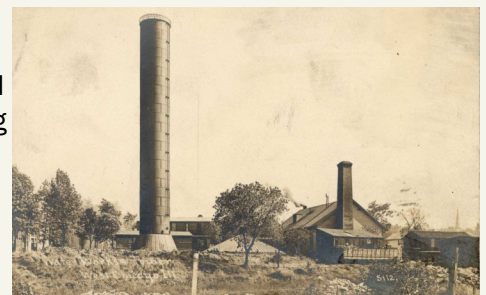
Sara Phalen, at wchistory@yahoo.com or 630-231-3376. Sponsorships are also being sought for this wonderful historic and useful piece. The Friends are also looking for local photographers to help with capturing the images of historic scenes as they appear today; if you are interested please

contact Sara. Calendars will be available for sale later this fall. If you didn't get our 2011 Calendar featuring the history of West Chicago public schools, the Museum still has a handful available for the discounted price of \$5.00! Stop in and pick one up to commemorate the history of education in our community today!

ARE YOU FOLLOWING THE CITY MUSEUM'S NEW BLOG?

A local history blog is being produced by the City Museum. **A Sense of Place** will provide readers with brief capsules of local history in a lively and entertaining format. In July, the Museum honored the old West Chicago Water Works, which was recently torn down, with a post about its history, detailing how this 1896 building was a key

component of the first water works system in the City. Located between McConnell and Washington Streets, this building allowed water pressure to help early fire fighters save West Chicago buildings. Learn more by visiting the new blog at www.westchicago.org/blogs/asenseofplace.

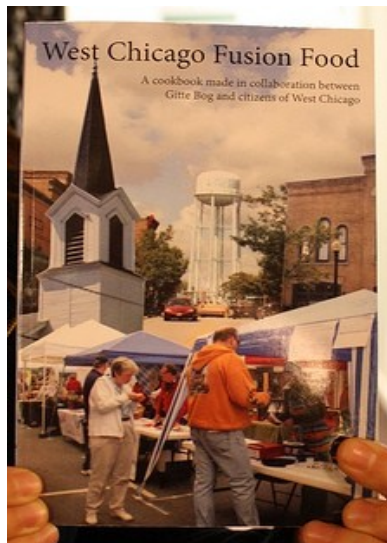


From left to right: Standpipe, reservoir (behind tree) and pump house, circa 1910

WEST CHICAGO FUSION FOOD

2010 West Chicago Visiting Artist Gitte Bog returned to West Chicago to launch her cookbook "West Chicago Fusion Food" during artXposium and Blooming Fest May 20-22.

In May 2010, Gitte Bog, a Danish artist living in Mexico City, spent three weeks in West Chicago working out of the Museum on her project "West Chicago Cookbook of Fusion Food." During her stay, Gitte found her way to our hearts via our stomachs by developing a series of truly West



Chicago inspired recipes. This book "tastefully" describes our diverse community and provides an opportunity to learn more about the favorite foods of others in our very own community.

The Friends have copies of the limited edition cookbook for sale at the Museum for \$15.00. The Artist-in-Residency project is organized by the West Chicago Cultural Arts Commission in collaboration with the City Museum and People Made Visible.

AUGUST 13
COMMUNICATION ON THE RAILROAD



West Chicago C&NW depot station agent's office

What came before radios and cell phones? Explore the various types of communication devices that have been used by railroads including lanterns, the telegraph, message hoops and semaphores during this program on

Saturday, August 13, from noon-3:00 p.m. Communications on the Railroad is part of the *All Aboard!* exhibit currently on display at the City Museum. If you haven't seen this wonderful exhibit detailing the history of depots in West Chicago stop in soon! Exhibit runs through 2011.

"If God had intended us to fly, he would never have given us the railroads."
Michael Flanders

CITY MUSEUM HONORS THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL WAR

This year begins the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. In remembrance of this historic event, the City Museum is honoring this tumultuous time through a series of blog entries titled "Crossed Swords."

"Here in DuPage County once the Civil War began, soldiers' aid societies were organized in every town. These groups supported the war effort by providing materials needed by soldiers on the front line and the sick and wounded in hospitals.

"Sewing circles made shirts, underwear,

towels and bedding; socks and gloves were knit. Individual 'comfort-bags' were assembled containing personal items, such as handkerchiefs, combs, soap and sewing kits.

"On a local level, assistance was extended to families who were in financial and emotional need due to the absence of family members who were in the service. And so it was that aid societies led much of the war relief effort."

To read more and follow this series visit the Museum blog at www.westchicago.org/blogs/asenseofplace. The City Museum has joined over 1,500 other museums to show their support of our military and their families by becoming a Blue Star Museum. Now through Labor Day, the Museum will present a pin with the City Logo to honor military personnel and their families who visit the Museum.

SUPPORTING YOUR
COMMUNITY'S HISTORY



FRIENDS OF
THE
WEST
CHICAGO CITY
MUSEUM

132 Main Street
West Chicago, IL 60185
City Museum Hours
Tuesday-Friday 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Saturday noon-3:00 p.m.
Always Free!

Phone: 630-231-3376
www.westchicago.org/museum
E-mail: wchistory@yahoo.com

The Friends of the West Chicago City Museum
serve to assist the West Chicago City Museum in
fundraising by encouraging museum membership,
donations and community awareness.

HISTORIC ORNAMENT SERIES

Thank you to every-
one that voted in
our **2011**
Commemorative
Ornament
contest! We are
happy to
announce that the
winner was the
West Chicago Roundhouse. We will
have the Roundhouse ornament for
sale at our gift shop later this fall.

