

WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO

September/October 2009 • volume 4, number 5

Wasserschloss, the famous Water Castle at Taufkirchen (Vils) Photo Courtesy of Bodo Gsedl

"The Sister Cities Program is an important resource to the negotiations of governments in letting the people themselves give expression of their common desire for friendship, goodwill, and cooperation for a better world for all." ~ President Dwight D. Eisenhower

Each day, ordinary people undertake the extraordinary task of serving as worldwide peace builders. The City of West Chicago is proud to honor the work of people in our own community who have taken on that role and formed a local citizen diplomacy network with another country clear across the globe. This October marks the 10th anniversary of the West Chicago Sister Cities (WCSC) partnership with Taufkirchen, (Vils) Germany, and a special celebration is planned for Monday, October 19, 2009, following the City Council meeting at City Hall, 475 Main Street, to commemorate the occasion. The community is invited to attend.



Confirming the keen insight of President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 when he proposed a people-to-people program at a White House conference, West Chicago's relationship with Taufkirchen (Vils) developed through such an encounter. A young German named Bodo Gsedl arrived in West Chicago as a foreign high school exchange student. He so loved the City and its people, he later returned with his twin brother, Uwe. The two were struck by the many similarities between their homeland and the Chicagoland suburb — warm, friendly people, neatly kept neighborhoods and the strong sense of community. Before long, Uwe met and married a local girl, and settled in West Chicago, where they currently live with their three children.

The idea of forming a Sister City relationship became a reality through Sister Cities International, a non-profit organization which represents more than 1,900 partnerships in 135 countries, and which advocates peace through youth education, cultural arts programs, and humanitarian assistance. A group of 30 West Chicagoans traveled to Taufkirchen (Vils) in October of 1999 to sign the official partnership agreement between the two cities, an event that was attended by hundreds of German citizens.

Since that fateful partnership 10 years ago, the WCSC organization has enjoyed many visits both here and abroad in an exchange of art, culture, and shared interests. The Mannerchor Dorfen (Men's Choir of Dorfen) held a concert at the nearby Arcada Theatre which generated regional attention, as did the German Swing Orchestra. Plus, members of the West Chicago Community High School Choir visited Taufkirchen (Vils) and other nearby Bavarian towns where they performed to standing room only crowds. There were also visits between the respective Garden Clubs, and many other occasions for visits, all of which have vastly enriched both communities.

The West Chicago Sister Cities organization meets monthly to plan programs and events that fulfill the group's objectives of peace, friendship, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation — one individual, one community at a time. New members are welcome. For more information, visit www.westchicagosistercities.com, or call Don Smith at (630) 293-9250.

KID'S CORNER

Craft Saturday Sept. 19 & Oct. 10
City Museum – (630) 231-3376

Movie in the Park Sept. 25
Safety Town Trick or Treat Oct. 17
Spooky Trail Oct. 23 & 24
Halloween Parade
& Costume Judging Oct. 24
Downtown Trick or Treat Oct. 24
Park District – (630) 231-9474

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Oct. 12
Autumn Carnival Oct. 29
Pre-School Halloween Party Oct. 30
Halloween Puppet Show Oct. 24
Public Library – (630) 231-1552

IMPORTANT DATES

September 4 Gallery 200 Reception
September 7 City Hall Closed
September 13. Mexican Independence Day
Parade & Celebration
September 19. Coffee with the Mayor
October 2 Tales Tombstones Tell

October 8 Gallery 200 Arts Gala
October 9 Gallery 200 Reception
October 13 "Those Were the Days"
October 17 Coffee with the Mayor
October 19 Sister Cities Celebration
November 1 Daylight Saving Ends

For more community events, visit www.westchicago.org



From the Mayor

The countdown to the 2010 Census, which will define who we are as a nation, has begun. The U.S. Census Bureau is depending on local officials and community leaders to ensure an accurate count. With Census Day less than a year away (April 1, 2010) the Census Bureau has already launched a critical national awareness campaign called, **IT'S IN OUR HANDS.**

The need for such a campaign emphasizes the impact and importance an accurate census has in shaping our community. Every year, more than \$400 billion in state and federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on census data ~ data which lives with the community for a full ten years until the next census is taken. Therefore, an accurate count is vital to our community's and residents' well-being from a fiscal standpoint. But that's not all. Census data guides local decision-makers in important community planning efforts such as where to build new roads and schools; and planning for future water and sewer utility improvements. Census data also affects your voice in Congress by determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The City of West Chicago has begun preparing for the 2010 census by forming a Complete Count Committee (CCC), which will bring together a cross-section of community members to ensure resident awareness of the importance of an accurate census count. Members will represent other local government agencies, media, education, business, and religious organizations. These key communicators will speak the unique language of their own community, while conveying the singular message to *"be counted"*.

The 2010 census will have one of the shortest census questionnaires since the inception of a national census in 1790. It will ask for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether the householder owns or rents their home. The form should take only about 10 minutes on average to complete, and the responses are protected by law and are strictly confidential.

The months ahead should bring a census "buzz" in West Chicago, as our local complete count committee begins the job of reaching out into the community to spread the word, "it's in our hands".



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

CITY SERVICES

Plan yard work around City collection dates:

- Final week for brush pick-up this year: **November 1, 2009.**
- Final pick-up for yard waste: **November 30, 2009.**
- Free leaf pick-up: **last week of October through November 27, 2009.**

POLICE NEWS

Residents should be aware that the painting of curbs with address numbers is **not** required by the City of West Chicago. Recently, an unidentified company has been circulating fliers which imply otherwise. The fact is, the City ordinance requires that address numbers, measuring four inches in height, be prominently placed on the front of the house, and that all garages off of alleys and side streets display address numbers.

Adult and teen volunteers are needed for **West Chicago Youth**, formerly WeGo Youth, a partnership between the West Chicago Police Department, Wayne/Winfield Township Area Youth Services and West Chicago Elementary School District 33. The organization encourages youth involvement through recreation and service projects; provides positive growth experiences; and fosters mutual respect among youth and the community. Youth Coordinator Mary Nieto is working on an exciting schedule of events, including **Open Gyms, book clubs and service projects** for the coming school year. Volunteers are asked to contact Deputy Chief Mike Uplegger at muplegger@westchicago.org, or (630) 293-2222.

Two timely reminders from the West Chicago Police Department will help make back to school and Halloween safer and happier. First, teach children the following **"Stranger Danger"** rules:

- A stranger is someone you do not know.
- Never talk to a stranger.
- Never take gifts from a stranger.
- Never get into a car with a stranger.

If a young child is approached by a stranger they should shout "No!" run away and tell someone. Children are encouraged to stay with an adult or a group of friends, as it will decrease the chances that a stranger will approach them. Parents are encouraged to review stranger danger as often as needed.

When **trick or treating**, have children wear bright, reflective costumes and avoid wearing masks which limit their eyesight. Have them carry a flashlight that has fresh batteries. Children should never trick or treat alone; make sure they are either accompanied by an adult or a group of friends. Instruct them to only go to homes that have a porch light on, and never go into a house. They should always walk on the sidewalk. If a street does not have a sidewalk, walk at the far edge of the roadway. Call 9-1-1 if anything suspicious or unlawful is observed.

A new event rides into town on **Saturday, September 26, 2009 and Sunday, October 4, 2009.** ABD Cycle Club received permission from the

City to sponsor two of their **Fall Fling Bike Races** at the DuPage Technology Park. Sunday's schedule includes a race designed for kids 12 and under (helmets REQUIRED). Registered participants and spectators are welcome. More information may be found at www.ABDcycling.com, or by calling (630) 890-4768.



CULTURE

West Chicago City Museum, 132 Main Street • (630) 231-3376
Tuesday - Friday 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

One Saturday a month, from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. beginning in September, the City Museum will hold free craft activities for children to learn about local history and the world around them while creating a treasure to take home. The first **Craft Saturday** will be September 19, 2009.

Visitors will make papel picado, a cut paper decoration, to celebrate Mexican Independence Day. On October 10, 2009, visitors will be able to make one of Christopher Columbus' sailing ships in honor of his birthday. Each participant will receive an activity sheet, listing all the Craft Saturdays. Participants will be able to add a sticker to it for each Craft Saturday they attend. Certificates will be awarded to those who attend four Craft Saturdays, and those attending five will receive a certificate and a prize. Craft Saturday is a free drop-in event for all ages.

This September, West Chicago celebrates the **100th anniversary of the start of interurban service**. In 1902 an electric interurban railway was built from Chicago westward to the suburban area. By 1909, a branch line came through West Chicago. Called the Geneva Branch of what would become the Chicago Aurora & Elgin (CA&E) Railroad, it extended from just northwest of Wheaton to Geneva. This new transportation mode created "streetcar suburbs," facilitating the movement of population growth away from Chicago.

An overhead trolley wire supplied electric power to trains in

town. Outside of town, a third rail located next to the tracks carried electricity. Believe it or not, this streetcar ran right down Main Street! Due to many reasons, the Geneva Branch was discontinued in

October 1937. The tracks were torn up in 1942 and salvaged for use in World War II.

The former CA&E rail bed is now the Illinois Prairie Path, a biking and hiking trail through DuPage County. It was the first U.S. rails-to-trails conversion, and now has about 62 miles of trails.

Mark your calendars for the 20th annual **Tales Tombstones Tell** program presented by the West Chicago City Museum on

Friday, October 2, 2009 at Oakwood Cemetery. Enjoy an evening stroll, with lanterns and luminaria lighting the paths through West Chicago's oldest cemetery. Costumed interpreters will reveal the life stories of selected former residents buried in Oakwood. Tours begin at 6:30 p.m. and start off thereafter every 10 minutes, with the last tour starting at 7:45 p.m. Tours last about 45 minutes, and no reservations are necessary. The program is appropriate for families, is based on historical fact and does not contain ghost stories. Although the program is free, donations are encouraged. In case of inclement weather, the program will be cancelled. *The Museum is looking for folks who have attended all previous 19 years of Tales Tombstones Tell programs. Please contact the Museum at (630) 231-3376 or email museum@westchicago.org.*



GALLERY 200, 200 Main Street • (630) 293-9550

Thursday and Friday 12:00 - 8:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Designated as **National Arts and Humanities Month**, October is the perfect time to celebrate the grass roots efforts of West Chicago's own downtown arts movement.

Artoberfest at Gallery 200 brings a month-long schedule of cultural opportunities to residents, including classes, demonstrations and Featured Artists. Plus, the community is invited to a special event re-dedicating Gallery 200's ongoing partnership between West Chicago's arts community and City government, and the successful conclusion of its recent makeover, on **Thursday, October 8, 2009 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.** Join community leaders, businesses, art groups, media and more. It will be a real "downtown happening".



Long time Carol Stream resident **Lori Majcen's** art career started early in life. Raised in Warrenville, Illinois, Majcen (born Derrick) has spent the majority of her life wielding a pencil to create realistic looking portraiture. She will be the **Featured Artist at Gallery 200** for the entire month of September. Her favorite subjects are children, cats and dogs, horses and "pretty much anything warm and fuzzy". A large percentage of her work consists of commissioned portraits. Most of her work is drawn from photographs that she prefers to take herself, and she includes the cost of an

initial set of photographs in her prices. The public is invited to a free **Opening Reception**, to meet the artist and view her work, on **Friday, September 4, 2009, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Artist **Jim Schnaitman** has been involved in West Chicago in various ways for fifty years. Within days of graduating from West Chicago High School in 1961, he entered the United States Air Force, serving four years as an aircraft mechanic before starting a career with General Mills. Schnaitman married his wife, Nancy, at St. Mary's Church and, in a newly purchased home on Coolidge Avenue, they began raising a family. After thirty-five years of service, he retired from General Mills, and at last, had time to pursue a life-long dream in the field of fine arts. The community is invited to a free **Opening Reception** of Jim Schnaitman's work at Gallery 200, on **Friday, October 9, 2009 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.** Hors d'oeuvres will be served, and the artist is offering a special opening night discount of 20% off the list price for any of his work, which will remain at the Gallery through October.

Gallery 200 Artoberfest Special Classes

- Oct. 3: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. ~ Clay Pumpkins
- Oct. 4, 11, 18 & 25: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
~ Drawing & Mixed Media
- Oct. 10: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ~ Soft Pastels
- Oct. 10: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. ~ Oil Pastels
- Oct. 17: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. ~ Glass Painting
- Oct. 24: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. ~ Fiber Art
- Oct. 31: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ~ Sepia & Cream Study

Gallery 200 Artoberfest Demonstrations

- Oct. 6: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. ~ Oil Still Life
- Oct. 13: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. ~ Oil Abstract
- Oct. 20: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. ~ Watercolor
- Oct. 27: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. ~ Oil Still Life (expert)

Full Details at www.westchicago.org or (630) 293- 9550





Mexican Independence Day Parade and Celebration

Enjoy the sights, sounds and flavors of West Chicago's Mexican heritage. This year, the City of West Chicago is sponsoring the Mexican Independence Day Parade and Celebration. The event will take place on Sunday, September 13, 2009 with the help of Bishop Arnie and Pastor Maria Ramirez, from Out of Exile Ministries. The parade will start at 1:00 p.m. at Joliet Street and Augusta Avenue, and will end in downtown West Chicago. The celebration continues until 8:00 p.m., and includes music by Los Arenales, Ballet Folklorico Quetzalcoatl, a mariachi band, piñatas and other Mexican favorites, commemorating this important day in Mexican history. For further information, or to become a volunteer, please contact Valeria Perez at (630) 293-2200 x170.

FLU CLINIC Walgreens of West Chicago will be offering a flu clinic at West Chicago Community High School this fall. Contact the pharmacy at (630) 293-8951 for more details.

Brilliance in Business

A new program in West Chicago is intended to send its business community a powerful message: *the City appreciates you, and is glad you're doing business in West Chicago.*



The **Brilliance in Business Awards** program aims to acknowledge the efforts businesses are making on behalf of their objectives and those of greater benefit to the community. The formal program, which conveys appreciation and acknowledges successful initiatives, projects, business practices and strategies is hoped to

inspire, create momentum, increase satisfaction levels and stimulate further economic development. It also hopes to bring awareness to the level of diversity, creativity and corporate citizenship that epitomizes West Chicago business. The nomination deadline is September 4, 2009, with an awards ceremony scheduled in November. All the details may be found at www.westchicago.org.

Thank you

Congratulations and thanks to all those involved in this year's Railroad Days Fine Arts Fiesta. The Cultural Arts Commission would like to thank not only all of the artists who displayed their wonderful art work, but also the many volunteers who gave time, talent and energy behind the scenes. The People's Choice Awards were presented at the August 17, 2009 City Council meeting. A complete list of the People's Choice Award winners may be found at www.westchicago.org.

Numbers to Know

Fire Administration (630) 231-2123
Fire Emergency 911
Police Administration . . . (630) 293-2222
Police Response 911

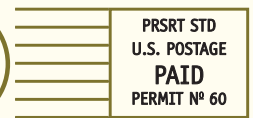
City Administration
 City Hall (630) 293-2200
 Michael B. Kwasman, *Mayor*
 Nancy Smith, *City Clerk*
 Don Earley, *City Treasurer*
 Michael Guttman, *City Administrator*



Window to West Chicago is published six times a year by the City of West Chicago. It is designed to keep our residents informed about city government, services and events. Check out www.westchicago.org for more information.

CITY COUNCIL

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