

## Blooming Fest

May 21, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Due to road construction, please enter the downtown via Route 59 and Main Street, and use free public parking at the Metra lot or City Hall.

# WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO

May/June 2011 • volume 6, number 3

**Spring is here and West Chicago is blooming.** The forces of Mother Nature have rewarded us yet again by transforming the canvas of a dormant landscape into its miraculous work of art. *The Art of the Garden* is the theme for this year's Blooming Fest, an 11-year old downtown garden festival inspired by the West Chicago Garden Club's (WCGC) annual plant sale fundraiser which began in 1998.

The group of dedicated gardeners that make up the WCGC has indeed served the community as another *force of good nature*. They have contributed to the splendor of neighborhood gardens throughout the City through the sale of reasonably priced plants that come straight from member gardens. Fully adapted to the growing conditions of our local soil and climate, these vigorous plants accelerate gratification by *leaping* in their first year. Avid gardeners everywhere have come to learn the extreme benefit of buying well-established plants and shrubs that hale from West Chicago soil.

Preparations for the sale that offers thousands of plants including perennials, annuals and shrubs, are extensive. A WCGC digging squad begins the process by digging and bagging plant specimens during the week for weekend potting parties at a barn in Kress Creek Farms, donated for such use by the West Chicago Park District. Volunteers form an assembly line which consists of paper stuffers to line pots, cutters to saw plants into pot size pieces, potters to mix dirt, pot plants and pass off to transporters who organize the pots by species and water them. Others strip and cut venetian blinds which are used as potting sticks to identify each plant. The labor intensive process yields about 600 plants per session.



Celia Kruse and friend in her garden.

The annual plant sale is a labor of love for the WCGC, but there is much more that the group would like to share. From an historical perspective, WCGC has cultivated community for more than 60 years and has played an active role in beautifying public and private gardens in West Chicago and in enriching the social landscape through fellowship. Since taking root in the community in 1925 as an offshoot of the West Chicago Woman's Club, the group has combined its love of gardening with community-minded service projects. Early in its history, member gardeners spread hope and cheer to the poor and ill by distributing bouquets of fresh cut flowers, and by maintaining a library for fellow gardeners. Today that spirit continues.

From novice to master gardeners, the inclusive membership base welcomes the fellowship of garden-lovers from many neighboring communities, making it one of the largest and most active garden clubs in the western suburbs. Monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at Faith Community Church, 910 Main Street, provide both a social outlet, as well as a formal and informal education through a lecture series and a sharing table which is regularly stocked with members' ideas, magazines, plants or tools. Meetings are open to the public and drop-ins are welcome.

Visit [www.westchicagogardenclub.org](http://www.westchicagogardenclub.org) for more information.

## Kid's CORNER

**Memorial Day  
Passport to Adventure Begins**

**May 14 Lego Program**

City Museum – (630) 231-3376

**May 6 Silly Stories**

**May 7 Very Royal Tea**

**June 6 Summer Reading  
Program Begins**

**June 18 Day with Dad**

Public Library – (630) 231-1552

**May 5 Mother/Daughter  
Spa Time**

Park District – (630) 231-9474



### IMPORTANT DATES

May 2 . . . . . Citywide Collection Event Begins

May 6 . . . . . Gallery 200 Opening Reception

May 14 . . . . . City Museum Reception

May 20 . . . . . Local Music Night

May 21 . . . . . Blooming Fest

May 21 . . . . . Coffee with the Mayor @ Blooming Fest

May 21 . . . . . Wayne Township Recycle Event

May 30 . . . . . City Hall Closed

June 3 . . . . . Gallery 200 Opening Reception

June 11 . . . . . Folk Musician @ Train Depot

June 17 . . . . . Local Music Night

June 18 . . . . . Coffee with the Mayor

June 25 . . . . . Sister Cities' Mayfest Dinner

For more community events, visit [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org)

# FROM THE mayor

As expected, we have begun seeing changes in our community due to the acquisition of the EJ&E by the Canadian National Railway Company (CN). Railway activity has increased, and with it associated noise. We have been working to address this issue, and I am pleased to report that the establishment of a quiet zone, one in which trains are not required to blow their horns on a regular basis, from Wilson Street, near Kress Creek Farms to Smith Road in unincorporated Wayne Township, is progressing.

Presently, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) requires that all trains operating on the CN rail line must blow their horn as they approach and proceed through every public crossing to heighten awareness of the train's approach and pending danger, unless a quiet zone has been approved. The City has completed a risk analysis and has investigated Alternative Safety Measures (ASM) as part of this process to qualify for the designation of a quiet zone. A Notice of Intent (NOI) has been filed with the FRA, Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), CN and others. Three required improvements have been identified and are in the engineering design phase.

- Closure and relocation of Aurora Street. The City has purchased the single-family residence at 122 Wood Street and a roadway will be constructed on this property for residents on Aurora Street to gain access to the alley behind their homes. Aurora Street will be removed in its entirety.
- Construction of a raised barrier median on Ann Street at the CN at-grade crossing. This raised barrier will prohibit vehicles from jumping around the gates when a train is approaching.
- Construction of a raised barrier median on Smith Road, in unincorporated Wayne Township, at the CN at-grade crossing, similar to Hawthorne Lane. This raised barrier will also prohibit vehicles from jumping around the gates when a train is approaching.

Construction of all improvements is planned to start in summer 2011. Once completed, the City will then be able to officially apply for the quiet zone and will file a Notice of Establishment (NOE). When all steps are complete, hopefully by the end of 2011 or beginning of 2012, a quiet zone can take effect. It is important to note that a quiet zone does not mean that horns will *never* blow. Trains will still sound horns in emergency situations, such as when there is a car or pedestrian on the tracks, or if the at-grade crossing warning lights and gates are not working properly.

A quiet zone designation can only be accomplished after a very lengthy process dictated by the federal government. While the increase in railway noise has been a source of frustration, the City is working diligently through the federal process to secure relief.



## CITY Services

Be a good neighbor by knowing the rules about noise, garage sales, lawn mowing, block parties, controlled burning, recreational fires and open burning. The basics follow: (for more details visit [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org) and check out the Municipal Code section).

- **Noise:** The City of West Chicago has a noise ordinance to help residents should excessive noise become an issue. Residents are instructed to call 9-1-1 and an officer will be dispatched to monitor the decibel (dBA) level of the offending noise.
- **Garage Sales:** Price to sell – no more than three garage sales per year. Signs advertising sale must be on private property only.
- **Recreational Vehicles (RV):** The parking of an RV (which includes campers, boats, snowmobiles, jet skis, ATVs, etc.) is prohibited in the front and corner side yards of a property between October 15 and April 15. Only one RV is permitted per property and it must be parked on a paved surface.
- **Lawn Mowing:** Overgrown grass is unsightly. Don't spoil the view in your neighborhood. Grass that reaches more than eight inches could result in a fine.
- **Block Parties:** Enjoy celebrating your neighborhood, but first call City Hall at (630) 293-2200 ext. 170. A permit is required for the street closure. Allow 10 days for the approval process.
- **Controlled Burning** in an approved outdoor fireplace and/or fire pit, whether pre-manufactured or built-in-place, and similar types of burning of any kind, is permitted when following the guidelines found in the Municipal Code. (Open burning is prohibited.)
- **Recreational Fires** such as bonfires and campfires are allowed but require a permit from the City and the West Chicago Fire Protection District. Forms are available at [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org) or by calling (630) 293-2200 ext. 170. Allow 10 days for the approval process.
- **Open burning**, defined as the burning of any refuse or yard/landscape waste outside of a building on the ground or in a container, is prohibited.

**New Rates** for garbage carts will become effective on July 1, 2011. Although scheduled to end in 2009, but delayed two additional years to provide financial relief to West Chicago customers, the City's subsidy of the solid waste collection fees covering one year's increase will end on June 30, 2011.

Item	As of 7/1/11
Stickers	\$2.40 Ea
35-gal cart	\$13.29
35-gal cart seniors	\$6.96
95-gal cart	\$23.41

Please note: Garbage collection will be delayed one day on all routes during the week of May 30, 2011 to accommodate the holiday.

**Water Matters** From May 15th through September 15th, **water sprinkling restrictions** apply. Residences and businesses which bear odd-numbered street addresses are permitted to water only on odd-numbered days of the week; and even-numbered residences and businesses on even-numbered days of the week. **Hydrant flushing** begins in May. If you encounter stained laundry as a result of fire hydrant flushing, stop by City Hall or call Public Works at (630) 293-2255 to receive cleaning agents.



Vote  
for the  
Official West  
Chicago Flower  
at the City  
booth during  
Blooming Fest

# Culture

**West Chicago City Museum, 132 Main Street**  
(630) 231-3376 • [www.westchicago.org/museum](http://www.westchicago.org/museum)

**Tues.- Fri. 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Sat. 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

Do you enjoy building with Lego bricks? Visit the City Museum on **Saturday, May 14, 2011** to meet **Lego model builder Joe Ellenbecker**. Mr. Ellenbecker's model of the 1912 C&NW train depot is currently on display at the Museum as part of the new exhibit "All Aboard". The exhibit explores the history of West Chicago train stations using historic photos and artifacts. Mr. Ellenbecker will be available from **1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** to discuss the construction of his Lego model.

**Bartlett High School** architectural/CAD honor students are researching the history of nine past and present West Chicago train stations. **Instructor, Jerry P. Hund**, a resident of West Chicago and life long train enthusiast is encouraging his students to improve their research, writing, and CAD skills with this project. The students' finished projects will be displayed at the Museum on **Saturday, May 14, 2011 at a reception from noon - 1:00 p.m.**

Chicago folk singer **Mark Dvorak** will present "**Songs from the American Railroad**" on **Saturday, June 11, 2011** at the CB&Q Depot, which will be open, at 134 Turner Court. There will be three, half-hour performances: **12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.** Accompanying himself on guitar and 5-string banjo, Dvorak will share familiar railroad songs from American history.



Suburban museums have teamed up again to provide the **Passport to Adventure**. The summer program is open to children between the ages of 4 and 12. Passport books describing the museums and exhibits are available at the City Museum, Kruse House, and the West Chicago Public Library. Children receive stamps in the Passport books at each site visited, and may receive prizes based on the number of museums visited.

Artists who have or currently live, work, or attend school in West Chicago are invited to exhibit their art work in the **19th annual Fine Arts Fiesta** held during West Chicago's **Railroad Days Festival, July 7-10, 2011**. Artwork will be accepted in four categories: Craft, Fine Arts Photography, Fine Arts 2-D/ Sculpture, and Student. This is not a juried show and all artists interested in exhibiting are invited to drop off their work at Reed-Keppler Park at the Scout Cabin, on Thursday, July 7, 2011. Registration forms are available at [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org) under Forms.

The Cultural Arts Commission will continue exhibiting local artists' work in the public hallway at City Hall, 475 Main Street. The featured artists for April, May and June are members of the **Underground Art Club**, which meets every Monday night at Gallery 200/STUDIO, 203 Turner Court.

The Commission has again sponsored the **Public Art Banner Contest**. Through this juried contest, original art works, submitted by both local and regional artists, are considered to be reproduced for the street banners. The theme this year is "**Motion - The way things move**" and 20 images have been chosen. The one-of-a-kind pole banners will be hung along Main Street throughout the summer months. Be sure to visit downtown and vote for your favorite banner. Ballots are available at the City Museum and Gallery 200. A reception for the winning artists will be held on May 21, 2011 at the City Museum from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

The City Museum, in collaboration with People Made Visible, Inc., will be hosting Danish artist **Stine Marie Jacobsen** for a three-week residency starting on May 2, 2011. During this period, Stine will be working on a film project with West Chicago's teens. Young adults interested in getting involved in this film may contact the City Museum or Anni Holm at [info@peoplemadevisible.com](mailto:info@peoplemadevisible.com).



Artwork by Joanne Kalchbrenner

## GALLERY 200

200 Main Street • (630) 293-9550  
[www.gallery200.org](http://www.gallery200.org)

**Thurs. & Fri. 12:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Sat. & Sun. 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Deborah Juzwiak, Hester Bury and Susan Ericson** present **Nature's Bouquet**, a photography exhibit exploring the many wonders found outdoors, at Gallery 200 from May 5 - 29, 2011. Framed and unframed photographs



Eye Candy, by Deborah Juzwiak

will be available for purchase. A free **Opening Reception on Friday, May 6, 2011 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.** offers an opportunity to meet the artists and includes light refreshments. The artists will also be available from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 21, 2011 during Blooming Fest.

A combination of etched and painted glass, photography and hand-made jewelry will be available for exhibit and sale at **Joanne Kalchbrenner's** featured artist show, **Whatever Strikes My Mood**, beginning with an **opening reception on June 3, 2011 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.** and running for the entire month of June. Kalchbrenner has created whimsical pieces of functional art, and will be featuring her signature "zipper" wine, champagne and martini glasses.

**The Gallery Theater** will be holding a series of evenings entitled, "**The Scene You Always Wanted to Do**".

Almost every actor has a scene or role that they would like to perform, but unfortunately, they have never been cast in the role. If you are one of those people, this is your opportunity. The Gallery Theater will provide the venue in Gallery 200/STUDIO at 203 Turner Court, and if needed, some minimal props and staging. All you have to do is decide on the scene and rehearse it. There will be several performance dates available. If you would like more information, please contact The Gallery Theater at [gallerytheater@gmail.com](mailto:gallerytheater@gmail.com) or call (630) 639-0594.



## Police News

As the weather becomes ever milder, we spend more time with outdoor activities including yard work. Here are just a few tips to help keep you and your property safe:

- Make sure all gate latches, garage and shed doors are closed and locked when not in use.
- Bicycles, lawn mowers and other valuables should be stored in a locked garage or shed.
- Make a list of serial numbers for all your valuables.
- Make sure all doors are locked at night and every time you leave the house, including the door leading from the garage to the house.
- Remove garage door openers from vehicles parked outside. This gives thieves the opportunity to open the garage door and burglarize your house. Remember to change the code on your garage door keypad periodically.
- Keep an eye out for your neighbors and get to know them. If they leave a garage door open let them know. Also, be aware of occasions when your neighbors go out of town.

### Unwanted Visitor?

The City has a wildlife management agreement with On Target Animal Control. The purpose of this agreement is to provide residents with discounted services to remove wild animals from their residences. More details may be found at [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org).



Ethnic crafters wanted for Mexican Independence Day, September 18, 2011. Visit [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org) under Forms for a vendor application, or contact Valeria Lopez at (630) 293-2200 x170 or [vlopez@westchicago.org](mailto:vlopez@westchicago.org).

## Election Results

Unofficial results of the April 5, 2011 consolidated election are as follows:

Alderman Ward One  
**James Beifuss**

Alderman Ward Two  
**James Smith**

Alderman Ward Three  
**Ruben Pineda**

Alderman Ward Four  
**Alan Murphy**

Alderman Ward Five  
**Kurt Meissner**

Alderman Ward Six  
**Rebecca Stout**

Alderman Ward Seven  
**Matt Fuesting**

Newly elected officials will be sworn in for their new term at the City Council meeting on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 475 Main Street. The public is invited to attend the ceremony and the reception that will follow.

Voters passed a proposition to consolidate the duties of the Office of City Treasurer with those of existing staff; and rejected the establishment of a real estate transfer tax.

@ [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org)

- ➔ SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR BLUE INFLATABLE-TYPE POOLS
- ➔ ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE
- ➔ ART BANNER WINNERS
- ➔ BLOOMING FEST SCHEDULE



The City would like to thank 5th Ward Alderman **Joseph Gianforte**, who did not seek re-election, for his past service on the City Council. His contributions to the Finance, Public Safety and Development Committees made a difference in the quality of life for all West Chicagoans.



## 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](http://www.westchicago.org) for more information.

### CITY COUNCIL

#### Ward 1

Lori Chassee . . . . . (630) 231-8709  
 James Beifuss . . . . . (630) 231-0584

#### Ward 2

Ronald Monroe . . . . . (630) 231-6967  
 James Smith . . . . . (630) 231-1524

#### Ward 3

Ruben Pineda . . . . . (630) 231-3181  
 Russell Radkiewicz . . . . . (630) 231-5679

#### Ward 4

Al Murphy . . . . . (630) 231-4624  
 Sandy Dimas . . . . . (630) 293-5170

#### Ward 5

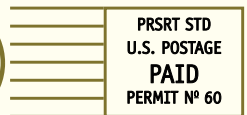
Kurt Meissner . . . . . (630) 231-9302  
 John C. Smith, Jr. . . . . (630) 293-3802

#### Ward 6

Rebecca Stout . . . . . (630) 293-7335  
 Nanette Connelly . . . . . (630) 231-2482

#### Ward 7

Nicholas Dzierzanowski . . . (630) 587-9608  
 Matt Fuesting . . . . . (630) 762-1996



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