

WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO

November/December 2011 • volume 6, number 6

Seasonal anticipation is growing.

As the holidays approach, households all over West Chicago will fill with the sights, sounds and flavors of tradition. For a brief moment, some of the constant clamor and speed with which we have grown accustomed in our daily lives takes a back seat to the quiet beauty of our natural surroundings, an unhurried meal and the simple joy of taking time to express gratitude. What will you bring to your thanks-giving table?

Plans for family and community gatherings ramp up in December and promise to add to the bank of life-long memories we draw from over the years. **Frosty Fest** is scheduled for **Saturday, December 3, 2011 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**, and incorporates a Victorian theme. West Chicago youth in grades one through six are invited to participate in the fifth annual *Favorite Things Essay Contest*. Participants are encouraged to research historical facts and write a fictional essay on the prompt, "A Victorian Winter: A Day in My Life Circa 1900". The contest is divided into three age categories and the deadline for entries is 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at City Hall, 475 Main Street. The winners will accompany Mayor Kwasman in a horse-drawn carriage during the Frosty Procession, and will also help light the official City tree that signals the start of the evening's festivities. Additional information regarding the essay contest may be found at www.westchicago.org.



Live reindeer are one of the many wonders of the holiday season and Frosty Fest. Mark your calendar to be downtown on Saturday, December 3, 2011 for the dazzling event.

Twinkling lights, live reindeer, strolling carolers and a horse-drawn wagon ride are all part of the free fun. Plus, a block of ice will be transformed into a crystal art sculpture, and kids will have an opportunity to decorate sugar cookies, with donations accepted on behalf of a local food pantry.

Amidst the excitement, let us not forget about our neighbors in need. The 4th People food drive continues at City Hall. Non-perishable items are being collected for four area food pantries. Those needing help may contact **Northwestern DuPage Walk-in Ministry** at St. Mary's Church, 163 Garden Street; **New Life Bilingual Church**, 464 Ann Street; **Wayne Township**, 27W031 North Avenue; or **Crossroad Restoration Church**, 525 N. Neltner Blvd.

Operation Support Our Troops – America is a volunteer support organization that provides comfort and care at home and away to our active duty military. Visit www.osotamerica.org to learn how you can help. Happy Thanksgiving!

Kid's CORNER

Dec. 3 Frosty Fest Craft

City Museum – (630) 231-3376

Nov. 7 Bilingual Storytime

Nov. 10 Family Reading Night

**Nov. 11 Make
& Take Craft Day**

Dec. 10 A Hogwarts Holiday

Public Library – (630) 231-1552

**Dec. 3 Kooper's Kandy
Kane Mishap**

Dec. 7 Calls from Santa

**Dec. 9 "Snowflake" Recital
and Toy Drive**

Dec. 10 & 17 Polar Express

Park District – (630) 231-9474



IMPORTANT DATES

November 4 Gallery 200 Opening Reception
November 5 West Chicago Youth Leaf Raking
November 6 Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 18 Local Music Night
November 19 Coffee with the Mayor
November 24-25 City Hall Closed

December 2 Gallery 200 Opening Reception
December 3 Frosty Fest
December 5 Brilliance in Business Awards
December 9 Local Music Night
December 17 Coffee with the Mayor
December 23, 26 City Hall Closed
January 2 City Hall Closed

For more community events, visit www.westchicago.org

FROM THE *mayor*

It's been said that Chicago has two seasons: winter and road construction. Certainly in West Chicago, construction projects have become part of the landscape. Many people have asked about the status of the Washington Street Rehabilitation Project for good reason as it has been ongoing since early spring.



The pavement rehabilitation project has been stalled due to a number of issues beyond the City's control. This federally-funded project is administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), which awarded the contract to Plote

Construction, Inc. as the lowest responsible bidder. Since IDOT administers the project, the City is required to defer to that agency as situations arise. For this reason, the City could not be more aggressive in addressing Plote's stall tactics, and its refusal to take responsibility for poor workmanship.

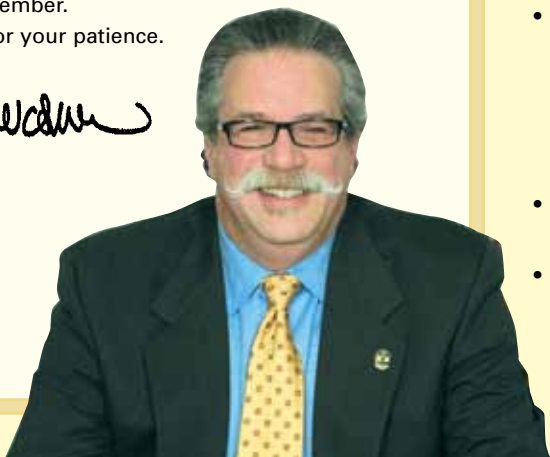
Between spring and summer, Plote constructed 299 concrete patches during Stage 1 in the eastbound lane of Washington Street, of which 84 cracked. With support from IDOT, the City directed Plote to remove and replace 39 patches, and epoxy inject the cracks of the remaining 45 patches. Plote initially replaced 11 of the 39 patches without additional cracks developing, however it balked at the idea of the removal and replacement of the remaining 28 patches without additional payment.

Following lengthy discussions and a six-week delay to the construction schedule, the City convinced Plote to proceed with replacement, though it will likely seek additional payment from IDOT at the conclusion of the project.

Stage 2 construction of the westbound lane has proven no easier. Midway through this stage, 60 of the 285 concrete patches cracked. Again, the City gained IDOT's support and Plote will be held accountable for removing and replacing or epoxy injecting those failed patches. While this will result in another delay, it's prudent for us to remain patient to ensure that the street is built to a quality standard that will not cost the taxpayers more in the long-run due to it deteriorating sooner than its expected life.

The contractor is admittedly behind schedule and is aware that IDOT may impose penalties. This is the City's best recourse in expediting the completion of the project. Concrete replacement in the westbound lane, together with inclement weather, will delay the completion date of this project until the middle of November.

We thank you for your patience.



CITY *Services*

Dates to Remember

- **Brush Pickup:** Final week will begin on November 7, 2011
- **Free Leaf Pickup:** Offered on the regularly scheduled garbage collection day through November 26, 2011
- **Yard Waste Collection:** Ends November 30, 2011
- **Free Christmas Tree Pickup:** Weeks of January 2, 2012 and January 9, 2012 on regularly scheduled collection day. Trees must be free of all tinsel, garland and ornaments.



What could be better than picking up an extra hour of time? That's what happens once a year when **daylight saving time** ends and standard time resumes. Turn back the clock one hour on **November 6, 2011 at 2:00 a.m.** This is also a good time to check batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Anticipate Winter, Prepare for Snow

- **Street Parking:** Per the City of West Chicago's Municipal Code, there is a parking ban on all streets after a 2" snowfall until such time as the street has been plowed curb-to-curb.



- **Snow Plowing:** The City is divided into seven plow routes. This allows the City to have at least one truck working in all areas of town. Each route contains primary and secondary roads. Primary roads are those that keep traffic flowing in and out of West Chicago and are the first streets to be salted and plowed. Secondary roads are those that have less traffic flow, are generally side streets, and are salted and plowed upon completion of primary roads. During heavier snowfalls, side streets may not be plowed until after the snowfall stops. The City will make every effort to at least make side streets passable until the trucks have time to properly plow the streets.

- **Fire Hydrants:** The City of West Chicago Fire Protection District encourages residents to remove snow from the area around fire hydrants. If residents are unable to do so, they are encouraged to mark the hydrants so they are identifiable to the Fire Protection District.
- **Well-being Checks:** If you have elderly or disabled neighbors, please consider making well-being checks.

Police News

The following tips from the West Chicago Police Department can help to keep your holidays safe and happy:

- When shopping, avoid carrying large amounts of cash and always be aware of your surroundings. Park in well lit areas with the car doors locked and windows rolled up. Always store packages out of view, either under seats, beneath blankets or in the trunk.
- Never display gifts near a window or door in your home, and always lock doors and windows when leaving the house.
- If someone comes to your door asking for donations, always ask to see a West Chicago solicitor's permit, as well as an identification card from the organization. Give money only to charities with which you are familiar. Never give personal information over the telephone.



EMBRACE THE *Environment*

Beginning on January 1, 2012, **certain electronics will be banned from landfills** in the State of Illinois. The list includes computers, computer monitors, printers, laptops, televisions, keyboards, fax machines, recorders, mp3 players, video consoles, DVD players, computer mouse, scanners, digital converter box, cable receiver satellite receivers, DVRs, or small scale servers. These items must be recycled by a registered collector, recycler and/or manufacturer. Fortunately for residents, there is a recycling option right here in West Chicago, **Sims Recycling Solutions**, located at 1750 Harvester Road. Sims accepts certain electronics items for recycling free of charge, Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Sims at (630) 231-6060.

Last year the Environmental Commission coordinated a successful **holiday light recycling** drive with Elgin Recycling. That drive collected a total of 1,209 pounds of holiday lights that would have otherwise gone into a landfill. The Commission will offer this option to residents,

businesses and other organizations again this year. Beginning November 25, 2011, strands of incandescent and LED holiday lights, and household extension cords in any condition, may be dropped off at the locations listed below during normal business hours. Signs will be posted directing people to the holiday light recycling containers. All locations will accept items through March 30, 2012.

- **Murphy Ace Hardware**,
319 South Neltnor Blvd.
- **West Chicago City Hall**,
475 Main St.
- **West Chicago Library**,
118 West Washington St.
- **West Chicago Police Department**,
325 Spencer St.
- **West Chicago Water Treatment Plant**,
1400 West Hawthorne Lane

Disposal of unused or unwanted pharmaceuticals is an emerging and complex environmental issue. The Illinois

Environmental Protection Agency is working with various stakeholders to find convenient and environmentally responsible ways for residents to manage waste pharmaceuticals. The City has initiated a program for the collection of unused or unwanted medicines. This collection program is designed to give the public a safe and controlled process in which to properly dispose of these products. The designated turn-in site is the front lobby



of the West Chicago Police Station through a self-contained, secure disposal unit. There are some guidelines which appear on the City's website, www.westchicago.org.

IN FOCUS | *Business*

The City pays special tribute to six brilliant businesses at the **December 5, 2011** City Council meeting, held at **7:00 p.m.** at **City Hall**. The following businesses have won the prestigious award:



- **Main Street Family Dentistry** – Small Business of the Year Award
- **Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce** – Economic Development Award
- **Kramer Tree Specialists** – Community Image Award
- **Sleep Innovations** – Community Service Award
- **Deike's Scout Shop** – Outstanding Not-for-Profit
- **Siemens Industry, Inc.** – Green Initiatives Award

Read why they were chosen at www.westchicago.org in the Business section. A short video will also be produced to showcase their accomplishment and will be available online following the City Council meeting in December.



West Chicago was in the spotlight recently as the featured suburb on ABC-TV's 190 North. A whirlwind tour of favorite West Chicago destinations brought some much deserved attention to the city where history and progress meet! Check out the link to the show from www.westchicago.org.

Welcome new businesses

All-One Communications

1891 N. Neltnor Blvd.
(847) 845-4704
Cellular Sales & Service

Midwest Gold Buyers

145 N. Neltnor
(630) 823-3099
Retail

Champion Spirit Group

245 W. Roosevelt Road,
(630) 596-5191
Event Planning & Production

New Image Vending

1092 Carolina Drive #3
(708) 421-7288
Vending Service

Changarro Restaurant

1400 S. Neltnor Blvd. #100
(630) 231-0200
Mexican Restaurant

O'Reilly Auto Parts

255 East Roosevelt Road
(630) 876-4530
Automotive Parts

Jamar Packaging

1331 Howard Drive
(630) 293-1017
Manufacturer – Boxes

Que Bonito Pan

285 East Roosevelt Road
(630) 835-4328
Bakery

Lupita Bakery

956 N. Neltnor Blvd., #310
(630) 235-5607
Bakery

Roster Xpress Co.

1006-1008 Carolina Drive
(630) 546-9688
Transport

Mid City Supper Club

122-124 Main Street
(630) 853-4854
Restaurant

Xpert Insurance Agency

173 N. Neltnor Blvd.
(847) 592-9572
Auto Insurance

Culture

The West Chicago Cultural Arts Commission extends congratulations to **David Toney** for his winning banner "All Aboard" in the 2011 street art banner "People's Choice" competition. A call for art has been made for the 2012 theme of "America - Who We Are". Applications are available at www.westchicago.org.

The Friends of the Museum wish to thank those that voted in the **2011 Commemorative Ornament Contest**. The winner is the

West Chicago City Museum, 132 Main Street (630) 231-3376 • www.westchicago.org/museum
Tues.- Fri. 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Sat. 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

West Chicago Roundhouse. The Roundhouse ornament will be on sale at the Museum in the near future. Those interested may contact the Museum and reserve one today.

Following the Victorian theme of this year's Frosty Fest, children will be able to make a Victorian cornucopia to hold holiday treats and paper chains, both typical Victorian decorations, at the City Museum during the event on Saturday, December 3, 2011 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.



On September 11, 2011, West Chicagoans came together to observe the 10th Anniversary of one of the darkest days in America's history.

Remembering 9/11: A West Chicago Observance was a meaningful tribute. If you haven't already done so, take time to view the slideshow at www.westchicago.org. The City would like to extend its sincere thanks to all the individuals and organizations who contributed to this powerful event.

GALLERY 200 200 Main Street • (630) 293-9550 www.gallery200.org

Thurs. & Fri. 12:00 - 8:00 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Meet glass artists **Cathy Linegar** and **Leslie Surta** at a free **Opening Reception on Friday, November 4, 2011 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.** at Gallery 200. "Glass Visions" will be on display throughout the month of November, featuring items made with stained glass, enamel-painted glassware and sculptures and vessels formed with cast glass.

December's artist series features jewelry and accessory artisans in time for holiday shopping. Meet the artists at a free **Opening Reception on Friday,**

December 2, 2011, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Gallery 200. **Wonderful & Wearable** will be on display throughout the month of December.

Local Music Night presents members of the **Chicago Koto Group, Rita Ruby and A Blurred City Sight on Friday, November 18, 2011** and **Laura Joy and Alejandra O'Leary on Friday, December 9, 2011, both dates from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

Gallery Theater presents *A Gift Worthy of Giving*, the story of a newly married, almost penniless young couple and their effort to make their first Christmas the best ever, on **December 3, 4, 10 and 11, 2011**. Presented in a shorter version in 2010, the play has been rewritten with an additional cast member added to expand the story, and will be presented as a full one-act play. All tickets are \$7.00; the play is appropriate for families. For show times or to purchase tickets, contact Gallery Theater at (630) 639-0594 or via email at gallerytheater@gmail.com.

GALLERY 200 200 Main Street, West Chicago, IL 60185
www.gallery200.org
 (630) 293-9550
 Open Thursday through Sunday

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

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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