

# WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO

November/December 2010 • volume 5, number 6

Gratitude knows no bounds this season as we thrill over landscapes blazing with fall color, welcome college students and other family members home for the holidays or relax and enjoy the fragrant aromas of seasonal dishes being prepared in our kitchens. What's on your Thanksgiving Top 10 list? Safe neighborhoods undoubtedly ranks high.

West Chicago is proud of the successful partnerships that have formed between residents and the Police Department through the Neighborhood Watch Program. The concept of the program was developed in 1972 by the National Sheriff's Association as a nation-wide effort to unite law enforcement, private organizations and citizens together to reduce crime and build strong community bonds. As residents watch out for one another and work collectively with the Police Department, they can help reduce the number of opportunities where crime can occur. This effort contributes to a safer community for all.

As Interim Police Chief Laz Perez explains, "The Neighborhood Watch Program is so effective because it builds a greater awareness for residents' immediate surroundings. The more people that are watching and reporting potential problems, the more secure the entire neighborhood will be. Because of the program's success, we are looking to expand it to other neighborhoods within the City."

Currently there are four Neighborhood Watch areas in West Chicago: Cornerstone Lakes Subdivision, Prairie Meadows Subdivision, Forest Trails Subdivision and the neighborhood just south of the West Chicago Community High School. Three tiers of participants each work to support the other. First, Crime Prevention Officer Robyn Nielsen coordinates the program and provides information and education via press releases, fliers, newsletters and events; second, neighborhood volunteers designated as block captains serve as the liaison between the residents and the Police Department; and finally, the residents themselves become the eyes and ears of their neighborhood and call 9-1-1 when and if they see something out of place.



The Forest Trails Neighborhood Watch has recently achieved a notable 89% participation rate among its residents. Block captains worked extremely hard to encourage participation in the program by going door-to-door, making phone calls, sending emails and more to gain support for their program. Their efforts earned them Neighborhood Watch signs which are displayed at the entrances to the subdivision and will serve as notice that the neighborhood is on alert to any and all criminals.

Officer Nielsen is looking to expand the program into more subdivisions/areas. Anyone interested in participating in the program, starting a program or who would like further information, can contact her at (630) 293-2222 or [rnielsen@westchicago.org](mailto:rnielsen@westchicago.org).

*Happy Thanksgiving!*



*Pictured from left to right: Crime Prevention Officer Robyn Nielsen (City of West Chicago), Judy McHugh, Mary Cisilino, Lynn Stockman (Forest Trails), Jeff Schwartz, Wendy Sweeney (Cornerstone Lakes), Bob Pugh (Forest Trails), Tina Wilkes (Cornerstone Lakes), Bob Kosman (Forest Trails), Kim Brown (Cornerstone Lakes), Paul Dowdle (High School South), Joanie Chernick, and Jim Danner (Prairie Meadows).*

## Kid's CORNER

Craft Saturdays  
Nov. 13, Dec. 4  
City Museum - (630) 231-3376

Celebrate the Day of the Dead  
Nov. 6  
Games @ the Library Nov. 13  
Animals in Winter Dec. 4  
Family Holiday Program Dec. 9  
Public Library - (630) 231-1552

Polar Express  
Dec. 10, 11, 17 & 18  
Koooper's Kandy Hunt Dec. 4  
Calls to Santa Dec. 8  
Park District - (630) 231-9474



### IMPORTANT DATES

November 2 . . . . . General Election  
November 5 . . . . . Gallery 200 Opening Reception  
November 6 . . . . . Community Services Fair  
November 7 . . . . . Daylight Saving Time Ends  
November 13 . . . . . West Chicago Youth Leaf Raking  
November 19 . . . . . Local Music Night  
November 20 . . . . . Coffee with the Mayor

November 25-26 . . City Hall Closed  
December 3 . . . . . Gallery 200 Opening Reception  
December 4 . . . . . Frosty Fest  
December 10 . . . . . Local Music Night  
December 11 . . . . . American Legion  
Community Holiday Party  
December 18 . . . . . Coffee with the Mayor  
December 24 . . . . . City Hall Closed

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

# FROM THE *mayor*

While homeownership is no longer gender specific, the old adage, "a man's home is his castle," seems as relevant today in illustrating the principle of the right to individual privacy as it did in the late 16th century. Recently in response to concerns raised by residents, City officials took action on two distinct issues: solicitors leaving unwanted materials for products and services on the front door and unsubscribed-to periodicals being left on people's property.

For many citizens, both of these situations create a litter nuisance and represent an intrusion of privacy. Research was undertaken to locate an existing ordinance from another community which could serve as a model. Unfortunately, no such ordinance could be found, leaving West Chicago to tackle the issue and blaze a new trail in this area.

The result was two ordinances that give residents the right to prohibit unsubscribed-to periodicals being left at their homes (other than telephone directories and those periodicals delivered by the U.S. Mail or other common carriers), and another to regulate the ability of registered or exempt (a person age 17 and under, who is participating in fundraising programs) solicitors, to leave unwanted promotional material for goods and services.

Residents who are interested in participating in either of these programs may create a weather-proof sign that conforms to the specifications contained in the ordinance (found at [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org) under Police), or may visit City Hall to purchase such signage, which should then be posted to the front of the property.

Additionally, residents who post such signs are required to submit their name and address to City Hall so that the address may be identified to those individuals and/or groups making the deliveries, as another way to prevent unwanted materials being left.

Thank you to those residents who took the time to speak to their elected representatives or to attend meetings relating to these issues. This is a great example of civic engagement and responsive government at work together.

*Richard B. Kwasman*



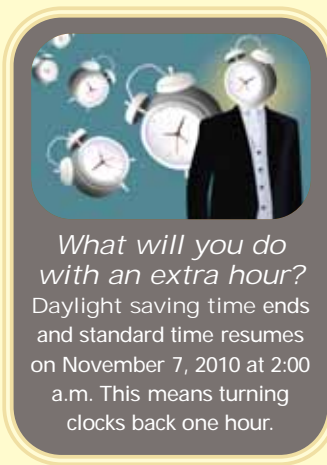
## CITY services

Since 2008, the City has maintained its water rate at \$3.88 per 1,000 gallons, and the City Council has committed to doing whatever it takes to keep that rate stable in the short- and mid-term. Visit [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org) for the City Treasurer's Report on Comparative Water Rates.

The final week for brush pickup will begin on November 1, 2010.

Free leaf pickup is offered on your regularly scheduled garbage collection day through November 27, 2010. Leaves must be in a biodegradable "Kraft" yard waste bag. No stickers are required during this period. Yard waste collection will end November 30, 2010.

The City has recently changed the location where all police records transactions and payments are administered. All payments, including amounts owed for parking citations, code violation citations and fees owed for the release of a towed vehicle should be paid at City Hall at 475 Main Street. Payments previously paid at the City's Police Department can no longer be accepted at that location. Additionally, please contact or visit City Hall for business transactions such as requests for accident reports, local background records check, solicitor/peddler licenses and notices for no solicitation of advertising materials and subscriptions. Persons with questions related to records transactions may call City Hall at (630) 293-2200. For your convenience, payments for all City business, including parking ticket/citations, utility bills and commuter parking permits can be deposited 24 hours/day in the City's drop box, located outside City Hall. All payments previously paid at the Police Department should now be paid at City Hall during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., by mail or paid via the drop box. Please note the City does not administer payments or questions regarding red light violations. For payment options or information on red light violations, visit [www.RedLightViolations.com](http://www.RedLightViolations.com) or call 1-866-428-4941.



*What will you do with an extra hour?*  
Daylight saving time ends and standard time resumes on November 7, 2010 at 2:00 a.m. This means turning clocks back one hour.



West Chicago Municipal Code, Sec. 10-52 of 102



### Frosty Fest Essay Contest



School age children (grades 1-6) are invited to enter this year's Frosty Fest essay contest; "My Favorite Wintertime Activity in West Chicago".

Essays should be delivered to City Hall, 475 Main Street, West Chicago, IL 60185, Attention Rosemary Mackey. Three winners will be chosen, and their essays will be published on the City's website. Plus, winners will help Mayor Kwasman light the official Christmas tree, which will be completely decorated and generously donated to the community this year by Joe Kramer of Kramer Tree Specialists. Frosty Fest is scheduled for Saturday, December 4, 2010 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

### SUPPORT PROGRAMS

West Chicago area residents can get information on programs to help them save their homes from foreclosure and stay afloat in today's tough economy at a free Community Services Fair on Saturday, November 6, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Community High School, 326 Joliet Street. Activities will be held in the Commons area of the school. The 4th People food drive continues at City Hall. Non-perishable items are still being collected for three area food pantries. People in need may contact Northwestern DuPage Walk-in Ministry at St. Mary's Church, 163 Garden Street; New Life Bilingual Church, 464 Ann Street; or Wayne Township, 27W031 North Avenue. The DuPage County Department of Human Services may be able to help if energy costs are placing a severe and continuing strain on your family budget through the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program. Call (630) 407-6500 to determine your eligibility for assistance.

Thank you to all those who supported this year's Mexican Independence Day Parade and Celebration through donations, time and talent. We look forward to making it another successful event next year. A 2010 slide show is available at [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org).

The 2010 Brilliance in Business Award Winners have been chosen and will be honored at the City Council meeting on Monday, November 15, 2010. These businesses have demonstrated excellence in the categories for which they were chosen, and the City wishes to thank them for their contributions to the community. To learn more about these outstanding businesses, a commemorative awards video will be available after November 15, 2010 at [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org).



*Community Service Award*

Casa Rios Bridal Boutique is one of Main Street's longest surviving businesses. Beyond serving customers' bridal, baby and Quinceañera needs, owners Emma and Onesimo Rios have actively supported the community through charitable works. Specifically cited were their annual coat drive and efforts to assist members of the Hispanic community with finding shelter, clothing, and health care resources, as well as bridging the communication gap by providing a venue for language instruction. 204 Main Street; (630) 231-7130

*Green Initiatives Award*

The Jel Sert Company's commitment to environmental sustainability efforts is admirable. As a leader in freezer bars, diet drinks, gelatins, puddings and frozen desserts, its programs to reduce waste and energy consumption and its re-use of existing resources and recycling initiatives are evidence of its leadership in eco-friendly



business practices and set an example for other manufacturers. 351 Conde Street; (630) 231-7590



*Small Business of the Year Award*

Natural Healing Whole Dog Wellness is a welcome addition to our business community and has elevated the level of West Chicago's reputation as a compelling destination. Offering the first pools in the Midwest specifically designed for the therapeutic treatment of dogs, plus a store devoted to products designed for whole dog wellness, this business has set a new bar for entrepreneurial innovation and quality, and has developed an industry niche with a wide regional reach. 946 N. Neltnor Blvd. (Rt. 59); (630) 483-9843

*Community Image Award*

Ball Horticultural Company has been a valued member of our business community for over 80 years. Quality and innovation have been its trademarks, and the presence of its headquarters in West Chicago has elevated the community's image and reputation. Clearly a global leader in all facets of floriculture with a presence in over 20 countries on six continents, the company has still managed to maintain a family tradition which nurtures its core values with an unwavering commitment to its customers and its community. 622 Town Road; (630) 231-3600



*Economic Development Award*

Buck Services, Inc. has demonstrated commitment as well as a significant investment in our community. The evolution of its business headquarters from a school janitor's closet to the basement of a family home, leading to the purchase earlier this year of a 17,000 square foot building, illustrates the growth of its business and its commitment to investing and securing a future in West Chicago. 401 Industrial Drive; (630) 876-8184



*Outstanding Not-for-Profit Award*

We Grow Dreams greenhouse is being recognized for the valuable service it provides through the job training and employment opportunities it offers to people with disabilities. Teaching useful work skills in a supportive, safe and caring environment provides its Team Members the opportunity to lead fulfilling lives while producing and providing quality products and services to the community. We salute its efforts which honor the concepts of human dignity, respect, hard work, fellowship and friendship. 1055 West Washington Street; (630) 293-0100

# Culture

West Chicago City Museum, 132 Main Street • (630) 231-3376  
 Tuesday - Friday 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Saturday 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.



"West Chicago. Next stop is West Chicago." A new exhibit centered around train depots arrives at the City Museum on Friday, November 12, 2010 with an Opening Reception from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Explore the history of our train stations and learn about the important role they played as a communication center for the community. Historic photos, artifacts and a kid's play area are all part of this exhibit which runs through April 2011. For more information, contact the Museum.

Looking for a unique gift? Look no further! Be sure to get your hands on the 2011 "History of Public Schools in West Chicago" calendar for only \$10. Anyone with a West Chicago tie will enjoy the archival and current images of our local schools from 19th century to present day. Calendars will be available by mid-November for holiday gift-giving and may be purchased at the West Chicago City Museum.

The City Museum will offer a family craft activity on Saturday, December 4, 2010 during regular Saturday Museum hours of 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. and during Frosty Fest which will be held on this date from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Visitors will be able to make a beaded 3" holiday wreath decoration to take home.

The West Chicago Cultural Arts Commission extends congratulations to Kathryn Lentz, the 2010 street art banner "People's Choice" winner. Kathryn was awarded a gift certificate to Gallery 200. A winner was also chosen from all those who voted for Kathryn's winning banner. Lance Konkright is the lucky winner and also received a gift certificate to Gallery 200. A few 2008, 2009 and 2010 banners are still available for purchase. Anyone wanting more information or to purchase one of the banners should contact the Cultural Arts Commission at [cultural@westchicago.org](mailto:cultural@westchicago.org).

Currently on display through December 10, 2010 at the West Chicago City Hall is some of the artwork created by this year's People's Choice winners that were selected by visitors to the Fine Arts Fiesta, held during Railroad Days. Artwork included in the installation in the public hallway at City Hall is by local artists Uwe Gsedl, Phillip Weibler, Jessie Hansen, Michael Cantón and Paul Nemejc.

The Friends of the West Chicago City Museum will feature two historic West Chicago icons as commemorative ornaments this year: the West Chicago Fire Protection District's Fire Engine, "The General," and St. Michael's United Church of Christ.

## GALLERY 200 200 Main Street • (630) 293-9550 Thurs. & Fri. 12:00 - 8:00 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. [www.gallery200.org](http://www.gallery200.org)

Gallery 200 welcomes pastel artist Kathy Santelli who will be displaying and selling her work during the month of November. Santelli was born in Poland and relocated to the United States in the early 1990s where she pursued a degree in Advertising Art and Design. While a successful free-lance graphic designer, she admits painting is her passion. Her works include florals, landscapes and abstracts. An Opening Reception is scheduled for Friday, November 5, 2010 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Floral Expressions will be on exhibit through November.

Support the arts and the artists that make West Chicago a 2010 Illinois Arts Friendly Community! Back by popular demand, *Wonderful & Wearable* returns to Gallery 200 for the month of December, just in time for affordable, one-stop shopping for those on your holiday gift list who appreciate one of a kind jewelry, accessories or original art. An Opening Reception will be held on Friday, December 3, 2010, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.



## 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  
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 Joseph Gianforte . . . . . (630) 293-8990  
 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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