

WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO

September/October 2010 • volume 5, number 5

“Live a good life and in the end, it’s not the years in a life, it’s the life in the years.”

These words, credited to Abraham Lincoln, are etched on a plaque hanging in Sue and Al Dieters’ dining room. The Dieters are two of the people making news in West Chicago. Their story, and that of several others, illustrates the rewards of making that life here, and is noteworthy because of the positive energy they bring to our community.

The Dieters are accustomed to people dropping by their home on East Washington Street as they pass on foot or in the car, to comment on how quaint the one bedroom bungalow is from the street view. Recently, the home also caught the attention of a national magazine, **The Country Sampler**, which featured it in a four-page spread in their September issue – proof once again that West Chicago is a haven for hidden treasures.

However, perhaps more importantly for the Dieters’ family which has remained in West Chicago for many generations, the recognition has provided an opportunity to contemplate the quality of life it has enjoyed, and confirmed what may be the bigger story - **West Chicago is one of those communities you just don’t want to leave.**

“My father and my grandfather were both employed by the EJ & E Railway. I appreciate the railroads,” said Sue. She and her husband raised two children and were very active in the high school athletic associations. “The schools are so diversified that my children were ready to go out in the world. I am so proud of that.” Even still, both children returned from college and put down their own roots in West Chicago. “It’s got everything here for them.”

Area contractor **Tom Cherrington** has discovered the rewards and personal satisfaction that come from breathing new life into older structures and received a **Rejuvenation Award** from the **West Chicago Historical Preservation Commission** at a recent City Council meeting.

Cherrington, who bought a foreclosed home originally built in 1918, which was near condemnation and had become an eyesore to its neighbors on Joliet Street, revived it to an enviable state. While maintaining the character of the neighborhood, he replaced the heating, air conditioning, electrical and plumbing systems and added energy efficient windows. The house has now elevated the level of the surrounding homes and made for a safer neighborhood.

Five dynamic women, **Pastor Maria Ramirez, Sara Phalen, Valeria Perez, Anna Rosalez and Jackie Ocampo-Gutierrez** are the guiding forces of the **West Chicago Mexican Independence Day Parade and Celebration** which is scheduled for Sunday, September 12, 2010.

Between them, they bring pride and passion for West Chicago’s history and heritage and a desire to instill that spirit in the younger generation.

Their leadership roles on the committee and in the community through their various organizations (Out of Exile Ministries, People Made Visible, City of West Chicago, West Chicago Park District and Supermercado Tampico), have given them an opportunity to impact the culture of West Chicago.

To read more about these community-minded people and their stories, visit www.westchicago.org.



Kid's CORNER

Craft Saturdays
September 11 & October 9
Downtown Trick or Treat
October 23
City Museum – (630) 231-3376

Mexican Independence Day
Celebration at the Library
September 18
Spookie Ookie Halloween Fun
October 23
Public Library – (630) 231-1552

All Hollows Reed **October 23**
Park District – (630) 231-9474



IMPORTANT DATES

September 6. . . . City Hall Closed
September 7. . . . People’s Choice Awards Presentation
September 10. . . . Gallery 200 Opening Reception
September 10. . . . Sister Cities’ Free Movie Night
September 11. . . . Kruse House Ice Cream Social
September 12. . . . Mexican Independence Day Celebration

September 17. . . . Local Music Night
September 18. . . . Coffee with the Mayor
October 1. Tales Tombstones Tell
October 8. Gallery 200 Opening Reception
October 16. Coffee with the Mayor
October 29. Local Music Night

For more community events, visit www.westchicago.org

FROM THE *mayor*

Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of any community. West Chicago is proud to recognize the many service clubs and organizations that quietly strive to effect positive change, lend a helping hand and build a better, stronger community for all.



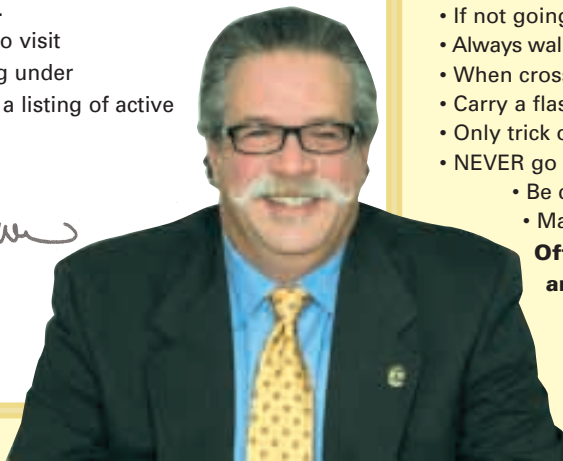
West Chicago Veterans

Villa Park VFW Post #2801, located at 39 East St. Charles Road will host an event on Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. which will focus on veteran benefits education. For more information, call (630) 974-1431 or visit www.welcometohomedu-pagevets.org.

are anxious to contribute their diverse talents to something personally meaningful, or new residents looking to connect with like-minded neighbors and form new friendships through service. Our young people are equally involved through the many outlets for service that exist through their schools, churches, or workplaces. Together these groups have discovered the rewards of paying it forward.

One of the most visible examples of volunteerism in action is the senior leaf-raking event that takes place in the fall. Coordinated through the West Chicago Youth program which is administered through the Police Department, children and teens “rake in the joys of service” as they assist senior homeowners unable to tackle the monumental task of raking the leaves in their yards. If you are in need of this service, or if you would like to offer a helping hand, please call (630) 293-2222 for more information.

I encourage you to visit www.westchicago.org under Community Links for a listing of active service clubs.



CITY *services*



Due to the Labor Day holiday, **brush pickup** for the month of September will begin on Tuesday, September 7, 2010. October brush pickup will begin on Monday, October 4, 2010, and as a reminder, the final week for brush pickup this year will begin on November 1, 2010. Brush may be placed out at the curb two days prior to the scheduled pickup. Please refer to the City's website for more information.

Residents may dispose of an unlimited quantity of **leaves** for a five week period in October/November beginning October 25 through November 27, 2010 on the regularly scheduled garbage pickup day. (Please note that due to the Thanksgiving Holiday on November 25th, Thursday service day will be on Friday, and the Friday service day will be on Saturday.) No stickers are required for leaves; however, no other yard waste may be mixed in. All leaves may be placed in a “Kraft” yard waste bag that does not exceed 50 pounds when full. *Reminder:* November 30, 2010 is the last day of the year for the disposal of **yard waste**.

The City of West Chicago's Utility Division will be **flushing fire hydrants** this fall, weekdays, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Signs will be posted in the areas one day prior to hydrant flushing. Hydrant flushing maintains West Chicago's water distribution system and assures proper operation of hydrants in the event of an emergency. Unfortunately, discolored water can result. This discoloration poses no health risk. However, please check the water before laundering.

Police News

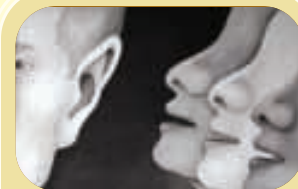
During the **Labor Day** holiday period, the Police Department will be conducting **extra patrols** looking for drunk drivers and unbuckled vehicle occupants. Please remember to always buckle up and drive safely!

Natural and manmade disasters can strike anytime and anywhere. As part of **September's National Preparedness Month** activities, the West Chicago Citizen Corps will be offering the seven-week **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** training. This **free** course will provide basic instruction in disaster preparedness, which increases the ability of citizens to survive until responders or other assistance arrives. Topics include: Weather Safety, Fire and Life Safety, Medical, Light Search and Rescue, CERT Organization, Psychology, and Terrorism. Please check the City's website for the exact dates of the course.

October is Crime Prevention Month and you can help prevent becoming a victim of crime by following some practical tips. Keep all the doors and windows in your house and car locked. Register your bicycle with the Police Department. Be active in your Neighborhood Watch; if you don't have one, consider starting one. Teach children the following Halloween safety measures:

- Always wear light colored and/or reflective clothing so children can be seen in the dark.
- Try to avoid wearing masks that will limit visibility, use face paint if possible.
- Never go trick or treating alone, either go with an adult or with a group of friends.
- If not going with parents, advise them of your route.
- Always walk on sidewalks, or if no sidewalk is available, on the far edge of the roadway.
- When crossing the street, cross at the corners and always look both ways.
- Carry a flashlight with fresh batteries with you at all times.
- Only trick or treat at houses that have the front porch light on.
- NEVER go in a house!
 - Be cautious around animals and strangers.
 - Make sure to inspect all candy before eating it.

Official hours of Trick or Treating on Sunday, October 31, 2010 are 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.



You spoke, we listened.

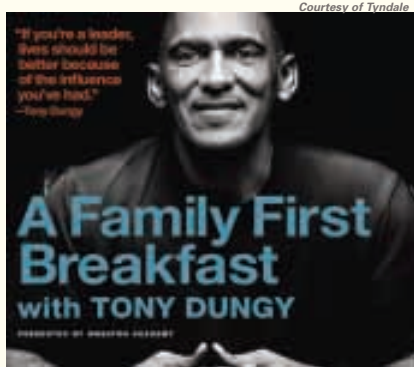
Thank you for your comments about *Window to West Chicago*. The City will continue to produce a print version due to the positive response.



**IMPORTANT REMINDER:
General Election is November 2, 2010.**

MARKETPLACE MILESTONES

Wheaton Academy's new Warrior Dome was the venue for an inspiring presentation by Tony Dungy, former head coach of the Super Bowl Champion Indianapolis Colts. Coach Dungy spoke about mentor leadership to a sold out group of over 350 people. Following the presentation, he stayed to sign copies of his new book, *The Mentor Leader*, and take pictures with his many fans.



Courtesy of Tyndale

Kramer Tree Specialists of West Chicago was chosen by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) as a benchmark for industry excellence, and included a tour of its facility in the five-day International Conference/Trade Show which took place at Navy Pier this July.

Walgreens of West Chicago will be offering flu shots (a combination of both the seasonal and H1N1 vaccines) at West Chicago Community High School on **Thursday, September 16, 2010** from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. You may enter the high school through

Entrance H, on the south end of the building, and proceed inside the double doors to the Administrative Conference Room. The flu shot is free for those with Medicare Part B. Anyone on Medicaid and over the age of 19, may receive the flu shot with a \$3.00 co-payment, and those without insurance may receive it for \$29.99. Flu shots will be available to children over the age of 14 with parental consent. Please register with Walgreens at (630) 293-8951.

If you know of a Marketplace Milestone for a West Chicago business, please share it with rmackey@westchicago.org.

Trick or Treat

Downtown West Chicago businesses are invited to participate in the annual **Downtown Trick or Treat** event which brings out the community's little "ghosts and goblins" on **Saturday, October 23, 2010** from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Interested businesses should contact Krista Coltrin at (630) 293-2200 x135 to be added to the list of participants.



look who's new

SUPPORT THESE NEW WEST CHICAGO BUSINESSES

First Choice Connections, Inc.
520 Main Street
(630) 222-9265
Cellular sales and services

GJ Computers
1937 Franciscan Way
(630) 562-1820
Computer sales and services

Oasis de la Salud
208 Main Street
(630) 688-5310
Health and nutrition

Scooby's Express
2013 Franciscan Way
(630) 231-4848
Restaurant

Sierra Communications, Inc.
200 S. Neltnor Blvd #200
(847) 809-7097
Cellular sales and services

Enjoy the sights, sounds and flavors of West Chicago's Mexican heritage at the Mexican Independence Day Parade and Celebration. This year commemorates Mexico's independence bicentennial and revolution centennial. The event will take place **Sunday, September 12, 2010**. The parade will start at noon at Joliet Street and Augusta Avenue. The celebration continues downtown until 9:00 p.m., and includes music by Sonido Imperio Azteca, Ballet Folklorico Quetzalcoatl, a mariachi, children's activities and other Mexican favorites. For further information, or to become a volunteer, please contact Valeria Perez at (630) 293-2200 x170.



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.**

Congratulations and a big “thank you” to everyone involved in making the 17th annual **Fine Arts Fiesta** a big success. The presentation of the **People’s Choice Awards** will take place at the **Tuesday, September 7, 2010 City Council meeting**. The names of all winners are posted at www.westchicago.org under Current News.

Again this fall, the City Museum will be hosting **Craft Saturdays**, a series of drop-in, activities for families centered on the theme of West Chicago’s railroad history. These free

monthly activities are scheduled for **September 11, October 9 and November 13, 2010 from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.** More details at www.westchicago.org under Museum programming.

It’s time again to clear the first Friday in October on your calendar for the 21st annual **Tales Tombstones Tell** on **Friday, October 1, 2010 at Oakwood Cemetery**, at York Street and Oakwood Avenue. Last year’s program featured tales of seven women as told by costumed interpreters. Who knows what

stories will be dug up this year! Tours begin at 6:30 p.m. and start thereafter every 10 minutes, with the last tour starting at 7:45 p.m. No reservations are necessary. The program is appropriate for families, is based on historical fact and does not contain ghost stories. For more information, email the museum at museum@westchicago.org.



GALLERY 200 200 Main Street • (630) 293-9550 **Thursday & Friday 12:00 - 8:00 p.m. Saturday & Sunday 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.**
Open studio hours with the Underground Art Group, **Tuesday 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.** ; www.gallery200.org



Women’s Wisdom

Do you *crave culture*? Grab a friend and head to Gallery 200 and Gallery 200/STUDIO. **Knit Night** is thriving on **Thursday nights**. Veronica Van leads a group that has grown from a handful to more than a dozen people who get together from **7:00 – 9:00 p.m.** to learn new needle craft skills or just share time knitting or crocheting their individual projects, which range from basic to intricate. Consider joining the group and creating a hand-made knit article for yourself or holiday gift-giving.

Catch the variety of talented performers appearing at Gallery 200/STUDIO for **Local Music Night**. Upcoming third **Fridays, September 17 and October 29, 2010**, bring musicians together from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. to enjoy collaborating and entertaining appreciative audience members. An open mic segment has become a big hit and has drawn people of varying ages and talents.

Women’s Wisdom, a collection of art by women from all walks of life, arrives at Gallery 200 for exhibit during the month of September. The mixed media work created by artists of the People’s Resource Center of Wheaton promises to add an exciting dimension to the monthly featured art series. The public is invited to join the artists at an **Opening Reception on Friday, September 10, 2010 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**, where entertainment and light refreshments will be provided.

Accomplished oil painter **Marge Hall** whose stunning, sometimes dramatic floral paintings, consistently win People’s Choice Awards at area art shows will be the Featured Artist during the entire month of October. She will also be selling a new line of artful accessories created from pop tops which have to be seen to be believed. Meet Marge at an **Opening Reception on Friday, October 8, 2010 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**



Marge Hall

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
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
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