

Emese Toth's art page 4



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Stephanie Ross' Haiku page 4

WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO

Fall 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

- October 5 – 26**
Fall Hydrant Flushing
- October 26 – November 28**
Free Leaf Collection
- November 1**
Daylight Saving Time Ends
- November 2**
Brush Collection
- November 3**
Election Day
- November 7**
Pumpkin Composting Event
- November 11**
Veterans Day
- November 26 & 27**
City Hall Closed
- November 27 – January 17**
Holiday Lights Recycling
- Through November 30**
Yard Waste Collection
- December (Date TBA)**
Virtual Frosty Fest 5K
- December 24 & 25**
City Hall Closed

Please note: **Coffee with the Mayor** is cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19.

Visit the **Community Calendar** at www.westchicago.org for community-wide events you won't want to miss. Once there, bookmark it on your favorite device and check it often.

Follow the City on social media.



Unlike any other year in modern history, 2020 has tested us individually, as a community and as a nation. As Thanksgiving approaches though, it is fitting to share an example of the good work that continues moving us forward; work that feeds the body, mind and spirit of our community. The City wishes you a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Hearts and hands working together (albeit socially distanced), along with training, funds, and a hearty dose of resilience, have resulted in a bountiful fall harvest that will assist in providing food security and nourish neighbors on the east side of West Chicago.

The seeds of the story were planted pre-COVID, in October 2019. Local residents and members of First United Methodist Church of West Chicago, Michael and Judith Horsley, attended an educational program through Global Ministries called EarthKeepers.

The training program equips United Methodists throughout the United States for environmental stewardship. It serves as both a launch pad for people looking to turn an idea into action, and an incubator for people who want to deepen an existing ministry.

Participants develop plans in conversation with their peers, troubleshooting ideas and sharing strategies. Upon completion of the training, EarthKeepers are asked to launch an environmental project in their communities and can apply for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) grants to support their work.

Judith's project idea was to expand the two raised-bed gardens built by the Boy Scouts on the property of the First United Methodist Church of West Chicago into a second community garden that would supplement the existing one at St. Michael's Church on the City's south side.

Long story short, and many involved community members later, a grant for \$4,993 was awarded in December 2019 and plans for spring implementation was set – but for a global pandemic which halted the building of the raised-bed gardens and the recruitment of community members to grow vegetables.

Not to be discouraged, Global Ministries offered an extension to accommodate the community's ability to push the build date to August 8th and the new gardens were built and planted by volunteers from Northwestern Medicine, The GardenWorks Project, and Healthy West Chicago.

Tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, Swiss chard, cucumber and winter squash will continue to be harvested through the fall and distributed at the Neighborhood Food Pantry on Fremont Street, and 2021 will bring a renewed effort to offer the gardens to host families.

The project was captured through Judith's photographs which document the joy and determination of those who offered their time and talent in the service of others. They may be viewed at www.westchicago.org.



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This fall, take note of these friendly reminders:

- Leaf removal:** When removing leaves from your lawn, remember never to blow or rake leaves onto the street.
- Brush collection:** The last two brush collections for the year will take place the weeks of October 5 and November 2, 2020. Only place branches at the curb the weekend prior to these dates.
- Parking:** Park on hard surfaces only (and never on the grass) and ensure any vehicle parked outside has current plates and is in operable condition. Beginning October 16, 2020, relocate any RV or boat parked on the driveway to an approved surface in the backyard or other storage facility.
- Garbage containers:** Only place containers at the curb after 6:00 p.m. the day before pick up and then put containers away and out of public view by the end of your pick up day.
- Permits:** Permits are always required for siding and/or roofs. Permits for windows or doors are only required if you expand or reduce the size of the existing opening.

2021 City Renewals – Due by December 31, 2020

Annual Business Registration – Please renew your organization’s business registration by completing the registration form and paying the \$30.00 renewal fee. Around October 1st, your business will be mailed the required renewal form. You may also renew your registration online at <https://westchicago.org/business-registration/>.

Residential Rental Licensing – If you own a rental property in the City, remember to renew your license(s) by the end of the year. Look to receive your renewal paperwork in the mail by November 1st. You may also download a license renewal form from the City website. All debts due and owing the City associated with each property must be paid to get a 2021 license.

West Chicago’s efforts in the fight against **COVID-19** continue and recently expanded to include regional strategies to help mitigate the health and economic impact of the pandemic on individuals hardest hit in DuPage County.

In coordination with Mayor Richard Veenstra of the Village of Addison, I was part of a coalition of Mayors and municipal leaders of DuPage County to collaborate on ways in which to tackle the rising number of COVID-19 cases in our communities.

We all agreed that in the short-term, a targeted approach is necessary to bring down the disproportionately large number of infections and positive tests in the Latino population of DuPage County. Improving the socioeconomic and health status of our communities was identified as a long-term goal.

Contributing factors related to economic issues of unemployment, sick pay, childcare, food insecurity, and access to healthcare were discussed, as were the social, mental and educational concerns of isolation, substance abuse, domestic abuse and the need to return students to school safely.

A coordinated program of education to slow the spread through preventative measures and testing was outlined, and various means of dissemination of materials were explored.

The resulting recommendations include consistent, coordinated communications throughout partnering communities via print materials distributed at essential businesses and organizations such as supermarkets, food pantries, schools (through backpack programs), daycare facilities and other appropriate distribution points.

An enhanced literature dissemination program like the one we began over the summer, which provides reminders about basic health and safety measure during COVID-19, will be expanded through the support of the DuPage County Health Department in each participating community.

The virus knows no community boundaries. We must all work together, washing hands frequently, social distancing, and wearing masks if we want to continue to reduce our case numbers and keep everyone safe and healthy.

Respectfully,

Please post page 3 of this newsletter somewhere in your home to remind family members of effective ways to stop the spread of germs.

As a way to ease the disappointment of the City’s special events cancellations due to COVID-19, a series of seasonal socially-distanced activities including **Distance Socially, Eat Locally** in September, a **Virtual Pumpkin Decorating Contest** in October and soon to be announced **Frosty Fest** fun has eased the transition in what has become the new normal way to celebrate community during the pandemic. All programs will be promoted through the City’s website and Facebook pages. Visit often to keep up with the latest doings.



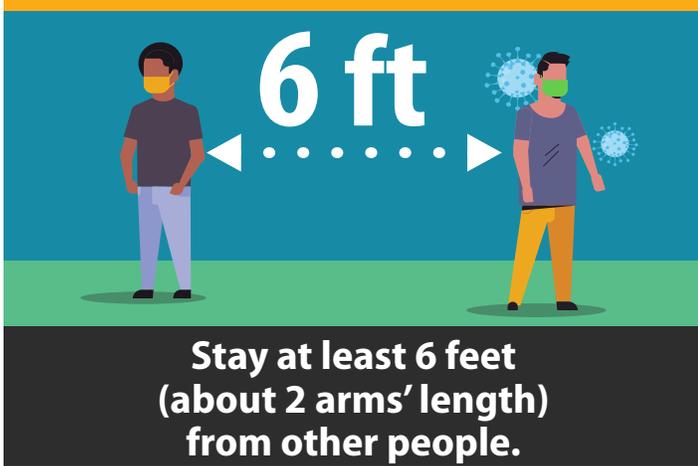
Way to go, Eva R.

September’s Move with the Mayor Campaign, coordinated by Healthy West Chicago and the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, was a huge success. Mayor Pineda recruited several other surrounding municipalities to participate in a

friendly competition and the result was a healthy dose of movement for all. Results of the number of steps taken will be published on the City’s website, as they were not available for this publication. Thank you to all West Chicago community members who got involved and inspired others with the great photographs sent in during the campaign that were promoted on social media. Visit www.westchicago.org in the Special Events section under Move with the Mayor for a slideshow of more photos.

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Art & Culture

GALLERY 200, 103 West Washington Street, has reopened on a limited basis on Fridays from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., after having been closed due to COVID-19. The Gallery will follow the State's guidelines for Phase 4 reopening which include limiting occupancy of ten people at a time in the building, limited hours, requiring face coverings and maintaining social distancing of six feet. Hand sanitizer will be available upon entry of the building and Gallery staff ask that no one enter the building if sick or if there was contact with anyone having COVID-19.

Several projects of the Cultural Arts Commission have delivered enrichment and beauty to the City and many community members have taken the time to share their appreciation.



"We really appreciate being a part of the West Chicago project. Please let us know next year's project, we look forward to participating!" ~ George, Anna, Tony and Trey A.

"Thank you, first of all, for this positive idea. I really enjoyed trying Haiku; it reminded me of senior English class!" ~ Stephanie R.

"We just wanted to let you know how much we have enjoyed the beauty of downtown West Chicago this summer. The banners, hanging flowers and planted flowers have by far, made the City of West Chicago the best it has ever looked!" ~ Peg & Jim S.

The project even inspired resident Stephanie Ross, to become more involved by applying for a member vacancy on the Cultural Arts Commission. Welcome aboard, Stephanie.

Upcoming projects include a Phase 2 of **Fall Haiku** which will be seasonally themed. Those wishing to have a yard sign Haiku for their front lawn should submit a request through a form found on the City's website. Also, the **2021 Art Banner Exhibit** theme has been announced as **Take Flight**, and art submissions are being solicited. An online form, found on the City's website, makes the application process easy.

Congratulations to **Emese Toth**, the **People's Choice Award Winner** of the 2020 Art Banner Exhibit, **Home**. Emese's artwork, titled **The Journey**, provides a glimpse of the artist's interpretation of a universal theme. "For me, home is a feeling. It's the view between two ears. A four-step beat. It is friendship and trust; an adventure for the taking." Emese will be honored at an upcoming City Council meeting at which she will receive her banner as a gift from the City and the Cultural Arts Commission.

GALLERY 200

For those looking for a unique gift for a friend or a loved one, look no further than 103 West Washington Street and Gallery 200 and the annual **Small Gifts of Art Show and Sale** that takes place in November and December. There is something special about gifting a piece of original art created by a local artist, both for the gift-giver and the recipient. Doing so not only provides a one-of-a-kind gift made by a local artisan, but also conveys support for the arts and contributes to the creative vitality of the community. Purchases may be made by visiting the Gallery in person or through the Virtual Market found at www.facebook.com/Gallery200.



NUMBERS TO KNOW

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Fire Administration (630) 231-2123

Police Administration (630) 293-2222

Police and Fire Emergency 911

Ruben Pineda, *Mayor*

Nancy Smith, *City Clerk*

Michael Guttman, *City Administrator*