

# City News

Issue #48 July-September '20



Dear Citizens,

A 'new normal' – that is the term many are using to refer to how our lives will be impacted going forward. We all are adjusting as things are changing. Yearly events around the world have been canceled or indefinitely postponed; we are asked to wear face coverings in many public settings; and many of us have not been able to hug or even see our friends and loved ones.

All City staff, many of whom worked on the front lines during this time, appreciate

the citizens of West Carrollton and your patience as we have been navigating the complexities of dealing with the pandemic.

Our City's core mission is the health, safety and welfare of the community. First and foremost, that entails providing the best possible services in the areas of police, fire, EMS and utilities (water, sewer, and refuse) in addition to our other services including things like tax preparation, permit applications and keeping our parks clean and maintained.

Unfortunately, difficult decisions must be made; some are disappointing to us all but, in the end, the safety of our citizens is most important.

We understand that not everyone will be in agreement with all decisions that have and will be made by our City Officials and Staff however, we are grateful that the community has come together to help others and be resilient during the last several months.

It is our hope as we begin to 'come out of this' you

continue to be good to yourself, your family, your friends and your neighbors. Thank you, citizens of West Carrollton, for helping keep us all healthy – economically, mentally, physically and spiritually. Please continue to be safe.

All my best,  
Mayor Jeff Sanner



## Tax Day is Coming Up – July 15



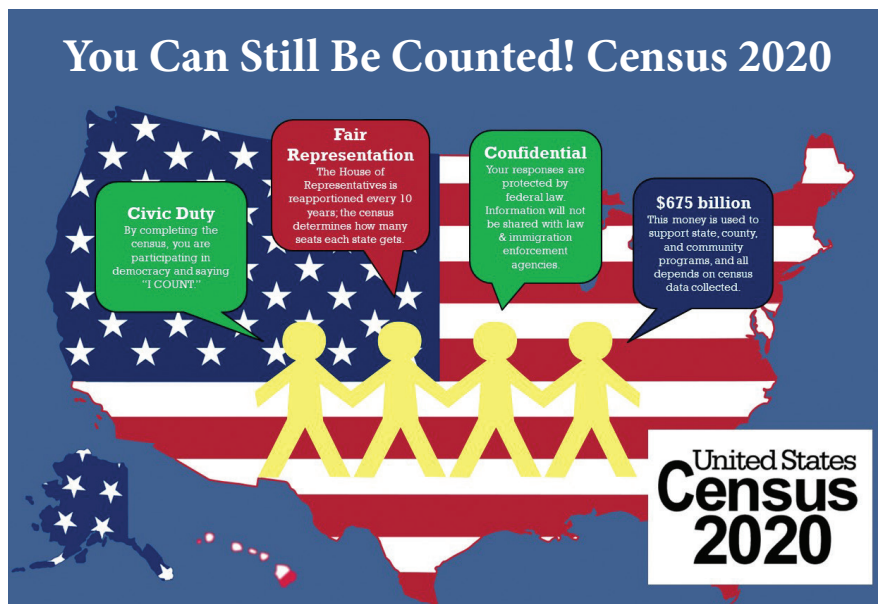
The City of West Carrollton tax filing date was changed to July 15, 2020. All taxpayers and businesses have until Wednesday, July 15, to file and make payments without incurring interest or penalties. All City residents, age 18 and older, are required to file a city income tax return, whether or not tax is owed.

**The Finance Department encourages you to file your taxes soon to avoid the rush.**

There are several ways you can prepare, file or pay your city income taxes:

- File your local income taxes online at [www.westcarrollton.org](http://www.westcarrollton.org).
- Submit your tax information via email to [financedir@westcarrollton.org](mailto:financedir@westcarrollton.org).
- Mail your tax return information to City of West Carrollton, 300 E. Central Ave., West Carrollton, Ohio 45449.
- Drop your tax information into the drop box at the Civic Center, 300 E. Central Ave.
- Visit the tax department at Civic Center, 300 E. Central Ave., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. **There will be extended hours Wednesday, July 15, from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

For additional information contact the Tax Department by phone at (937) 859-8288 or email [financedir@westcarrollton.org](mailto:financedir@westcarrollton.org).



# In Your City

## Fire/EMS Levy Passes

The City of West Carrollton's Fire Department thanks the citizens of West Carrollton for their overwhelming support of the Fire/EMS levy. The levy will provide funds for more competitive wages for both full and part-time employees along with better education assistance for part-time staff. "We are excited to begin the hiring process. Our intent is to start the preliminary hiring process at the end of this year and hope to have people on board early in 2021," Chief Chris Barnett said.



## Fire Hydrant Testing

The Fire Department will begin testing fire hydrants Tuesday, September 8, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Testing will continue through mid-October. Hydrant testing will not take place on the weekends and might be delayed if there is rain. Every year, the fire department marks the top of each hydrant with a different paint color to distinguish that the hydrant has been tested.

This year's color is green. Residents might experience discoloration of tap water in their faucets or washing machines during the hydrant tests. "If residents notice discoloration, they should run the water until it becomes clear. They should avoid drinking or doing laundry until the water runs clear," said Captain Nick Sanders, "and if necessary, residents can use a rust removal laundry packet in the washing machine." The packets are free to residents and available in the water clerk's office at the Civic Center, 300 E. Central Ave. Call (937) 859-8280 to request a packet.



## Fire Safety Tips

### Replacing Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

It is required by code that smoke alarms and combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms be replaced at least every ten years after the date of manufacture.

## Smoke Alarms

*Where should I place my smoke alarms?*

**A smoke detector is required by law to be installed in the following locations:**

- On the ceiling/wall outside of each separate sleeping area.
- In each room used for sleeping purposes.
- In each story or level of the home, including basements.

**Smoke detectors should not be installed:**

- Within 10-feet of cooking appliances unless otherwise required.
- Within 36 inches (3 ft.) of the:
  - Tip of the blade of a ceiling fan.
  - Door to any bathroom containing a shower/tub.
  - Supply registers of heating and cooling systems.

## Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors/Alarms

CO detectors must also be installed outside of each separate sleeping area. One exception: if a fuel-burning appliance is located in the bedroom or its attached bathroom, it must be installed in the bedroom. Do you need a CO detector in your home? Contact (937) 847-4645 and a member of our department will provide one to you free of charge (for West Carrollton residents only).

## Recreational Fires & Grilling Out

If a fire is found unattended or irresponsible burning endangers the safety and welfare of the public, the fire must be extinguished.

**Fire Code states that recreational fires must be:**

- Contained within a pit, fire ring or commercial fire pit.
- Made with only clean, dry wood. (No trash or yard waste)
- No larger than 2 ft. in width and 2 ft. in height. (No "bonfires")
- Supervised at all times by someone 18 years or older.
- Located at least 25 feet from a structure or any combustible material.
- Safeguarded with a way of extinguishing the fire, such as a fire extinguisher or garden hose.

When you're finished, extinguish all coals with water and leave the hot materials untouched at least 24 hours. Do not bag or dispose of ashes/coals in a garbage container until absolutely certain they are completely out.

**Charcoal burners or propane gas grills** are not permitted to be used on decks and balconies nor within ten feet of structures like a nearby wall, overhang, patio fence, railing, or the deck above your own deck or patio.

Questions concerning any of the above safety tips? Call the W.C. Fire Department at (937) 847-4647.

**FIRE SAFETY**

# Police Memorial Tribute

On Thursday, May 14, the police department held a Memorial Tribute in honor of Peace Officer Memorial Week. The tribute honored fallen officers, with special mention of Officer Fred Beard. A plaque and flagpole were dedicated in honor of Sergeant Jack Knight. The flagpole was erected in 2019 next to the memorial that is dedicated to Officer Fred Beard. This flagpole commemorates the service of Sgt. Jack Knight - the only West Carrollton Police Officer shot in the line of duty. After suffering a nearly fatal gunshot wound in 1972, Jack worked for several more years before having to take medical retirement in 1983. Sadly, Sgt. Knight passed away in December 2018. The ceremony was streamed on Facebook Live due to social distancing requirements and practices. It can be seen on the West Carrollton Police Department's Facebook page.



## Summer Crime Prevention Tips

### Bike Theft Prevention

- Most bikes are stolen when left unlocked. If you're not riding it, LOCK IT UP!

### Bike Safety Tips

- Obey the rules of the road.
- Always wear a helmet.
- Wear bright-colored or reflective clothing while riding.
- Always ride with traffic – never against it.
- Parents should be aware of where their children are going.

### Vacation Watch

- When leaving town on vacation, contact the records department at (937) 859-7465 to provide information for the Vacation House Check program.
- Have someone pick up your mail and newspapers.
- Leave a lamp on a timer.
- Always lock your home, garage or office.

### General Safety

- Lock your car any time you will be away from it.
- Lock your car at night.
- Do not leave valuables in your car.
- If you must leave items in your car, put the items in the trunk.



# Don't Forget to Mow!

It's officially summer and the grass continues to grow. Some of us don't enjoy the chore of mowing the grass but, it's a necessary part of maintaining your property. We encourage you to take a bit of time every week to take care of this particular responsibility. You can't beat the look and smell of a freshly mowed yard. Please remember that grass and weeds cannot be over eight inches tall according to city



ordinance. The City makes every effort to give property owners notice via a door hanger or personal call if your lawn is not in compliance with the grass height ordinance; and allows you a reasonable amount of time to resolve the situation prior to the city taking any additional action.

*For more information, or to communicate special circumstances, please contact the Planning and Community Development Department at (937) 859-5783.*

# Community Garage Sale — October 3

The City was thrilled to be able to reschedule the May community garage sale to June 27 this year. Your patience was greatly appreciated.

West Carrollton's final community-wide Garage Sale of 2020 will be held Saturday, October 3. The City will provide each participant with the Ohio Department of Health's COVID-19 Garage Sale Checklist. The practices outlined in the checklist are encouraged so that everyone remains as safe as possible. Participants can register their address online at [www.westcarrollton.org](http://www.westcarrollton.org) or by emailing [Recprogram@westcarrollton.org](mailto:Recprogram@westcarrollton.org). Please provide a name, address and phone number.

The last day to register is Wednesday, September 30. The list of participating homes will be posted on the city's website, [www.westcarrollton.org](http://www.westcarrollton.org), and in the Civic Center Lobby by Thursday, October 1, at 4:30 p.m.



# Free Bulk Trash Pickup

The third free Bulk Trash Collection will be held July 6 - 10 on residents' regular collection days. The city will not pick up contractor generated materials or remodeling materials. For more information call (937) 859-8280.



# What's Happening

For information for events listed below, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (937) 859-8152 or check us out at [westcarrollton.org](http://westcarrollton.org) or on Facebook. \*All REGISTRATIONS must either be done online or in person at the Civic Center between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.\* We do not take event registrations over the phone.



## Chalk Art Contest – Kids & Adults

Spread some joy by creating chalk art on your driveways or sidewalk! During the second half of July, we'd like you to submit photos of your creations. We'll feature all appropriate submissions online and our favorites will receive a small prize. Age categories: grades K-5, 6-12, and Adult. Let your creativity flow! There's no limit on the number of creations you can submit per person(s.)

**Date:** July 13 – 31 (to submit artwork)

**Location:** Your workspace is where you make it - driveway, sidewalk, etc.

**Cost:** Free

**Photo Submission:** Submit online under Parks & Recreation at [westcarrollton.org](http://westcarrollton.org) or email [recprogram@westcarrollton.org](mailto:recprogram@westcarrollton.org)

The photo submission must include either the artists in the photo or the name of the artist underneath the artwork. Please include your name, age of artist(s), address and email.

## Fairy & Gnome Home Celebration

There have been rumors of fairy and gnome activity in Weidner Park! During the week of Aug 3, painted rocks will be scattered around the park; if you come across one, that means it's a great spot for a fairy or gnome home to be built! Natural building materials (sticks, pinecones, pebbles, etc.) will be placed near the rocks. Once you've built your home, snap a picture and send it to us! A gift might be left for you inside the home you built so, check back in a few days.

\*Please do not remove any painted rocks – multiple homes can be built near the same rock. Please be courteous of others' creations.

**Date:** August 3 -10

**Time:** Anytime you're available – It's on your schedule.

**Location:** Weidner Park

**Cost:** Free

**Photo Submission:** Submit online under Parks & Recreation at [westcarrollton.org](http://westcarrollton.org) or email [TSlonaker@westcarrollton.org](mailto:TSlonaker@westcarrollton.org)



## Raptor Center Visit: Only Owls!

What is that bird hooting in the night? Meet three owls native to Ohio from the Glen Helen Raptor Center and discover their unique characteristics that make them 'masters of the night.' This program is recommended for ages 5 and up. Ohio Department of Health guidelines will be in place.

**Date:** Saturday, September 19

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Location:** Meet in front of the Civic Center

**Cost:** Free

## Family Campout

Campfire, games, a night hike, and s'mores! Groups must provide their own tent(s) and sleeping bags. Snacks and breakfast will be provided. Registration required by July 22.

**Dates:** Saturday, July 25 – Sunday, July 26

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. Saturday – 9 a.m. Sunday

**Location:** Hintermeister Park

**Cost:** \$10 per family up to four; \$2 each additional person; Register online under Parks & Recreation.

## Bike Rodeo

Come to Wilson Park to practice your cycling skills at the bike rodeo – different courses will be set up to try. W.C. police officers will be on site for safety tips and suggestions. Each registered child will receive a medal and be entered into a raffle for additional prizes. Registration required by August 5.

**Date:** August 8

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Wilson Park (pool side parking lot)

**Ages:** Ages 4 -11

**Cost:** \$5 per child; Register online under Parks & Recreation.





## Elm St. Bridge to Open Soon

The Elm St. bridge reconstruction is almost complete. The final phase of the project begins Monday, June 29. This phase is expected to last approximately two weeks with the bridge opening to all traffic on or about July 12. During these last weeks, Gibbons Rd. will be open in one direction from Alex Rd. to Elm St. Elm St. will be closed at Gibbons heading south. All local traffic will have access to their homes and businesses.

The bridge has been expanded from 23 feet to 78 feet in order to meet federal flood plain protection requirements. There will be some final touches that will occur during the remainder of July but, traffic will not be affected.

## Hot Air Balloon Glow

The 2020 Balloon Glow has been canceled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a difficult decision however, the safety and health of our guests, volunteers, staff, balloonists, vendors and community is ultimately our first priority. We thank you for your understanding. See you next year!

## New Business

*Fancy Hair Salon, L.L.C.*  
*(hair salon)*  
 18 N. Elm St.  
 (937) 388-8125

## Flood Information

Flooding is the most common natural disaster in the United States. An inch of water can cause flooding and lead to catastrophic damage to homes and businesses. Severe flooding can destroy communities and cause loss of life.

Purchasing flood insurance provides financial protection for the cost of repairs due to flood damage. Standard insurance

policies do not cover flooding, but flood insurance is available for homeowners, renters, and business owners through the National Flood Insurance Program.

An Elevation Certificate is required to rate structures for flood insurance premiums. For more information go to [www.westcarrollton.org/flood-information](http://www.westcarrollton.org/flood-information).

## Sanitary Sewer Report Available

West Carrollton's annual Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) report has been submitted to the Ohio EPA. To receive a copy of the report, call the Utility Superintendent at (937) 847-6070.

Did you know that stormwater runoff from roofs and paved areas can carry pollutants such as oil, chemicals and fertilizers to nearby waterways-which can harm fish, wildlife and native vegetation? A few things residents can to do help are by storing and disposing of chemicals properly, not in storm drains; checking cars for leaks and being sure to recycle motor oil and anti-freeze.

# Community



## Look Who's Retiring

**CLAIRE SIMPSON** has been a valued employee as a tax analyst in the Finance Department for almost 19 years.

When asked what Claire enjoyed most about her time at West Carrollton, she said, "helping people; whether it be the West Carrollton

residents with their tax forms or my co-workers with computer questions."

As she heads into retirement she's looking forward to sleeping in, having more time to help on the family farm in Okeana, Ohio, where she grew up, learning new things about the computer, and spending more time with her three children and nine grandchildren.

Claire will miss her coworkers and "seeing the people that I work and laugh with every day. I will never forget the wonderful volunteers that made me smile and the great food fests we had through the years. Thanks to all for the good times and great memories!"

Claire Simpson, the City thanks you for your service!

► *Claire has been a hardworking, principled, valuable member of our team. She always tries to do things the right way. Because of her outstanding computer skills, we felt like we had our very own IT person in our department to help us. She also has a heart of gold. We will miss her tremendously. ~ Tom Reilly, Finance Director*

► *I have known you almost my whole life. You have been a wonderful mentor and friend and I wish you nothing but the best in your new chapter. Things won't be the same without you. ~ Miranda Bond-Rousey, Account Analyst*

**DON HOBBS'** started working for the City of West Carrollton in 1987 and has been one of our city's dedicated refuse workers since that time.

Some may not know that our dependable refuse personnel pick up all city refuse with only three employees. There are two trash trucks; one operated by two employees, the other, a one-man undertaking.

Don has done it all, from being the gentleman you'd see on the back of the truck to driving the two-man truck across the city to ensure your trash is disposed of every week. Don also assists the street department in other duties as well, like plowing snow, when needed.

Don says the best thing about working for the City is "serving and getting to know the residents of West Carrollton."

And when asked about what he's most looking forward to doing in retirement, Don responded with a chuckle, "starting my wife's honey-do list."

Don Hobbs, thank you for your 33 and half years of service to the City of West Carrollton. We appreciate you!

► *Don Hobbs will be missed by not only his fellow workers but, by the residents he served. I appreciate all the memories and stories we have together. He's not just a coworker, but a family member. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement! ~ Todd Pemberton, Superintendent of Street and Refuse*



## Mural in Civic Center Lobby

If you've been to the Civic Center sometime since last December you probably noticed the new mural commemorating the City of West Carrollton. It depicts a sunset over the Great Miami River in West Carrollton.

Kenny Garber is the artist who created the mural. He began by drawing the work freehand onto the wall using a grid method and then painted the entire image using an airbrush.

There are several hidden images in the painting. These hidden elements are a nod to city, state, and country. They include a buckeye leaf and buckeyes, a cardinal, and a bald eagle. Several dates and numbers significant to West Carrollton are placed in the painting too. Did you know the West Carrollton area was settled in 1797 and was incorporated as the 198th city in 1967?

Kenny says he's been an artist as long as he can remember and first picked up the airbrush at the age of ten. He currently focuses on portraits and fine art to cars and motorcycles. "It was an honor and a pleasure to be able to work with my hometown to bring this mural to life," stated Garber.





## West Carrollton Schools Update

The West Carrollton School District, along with districts across the country, faced unexpected challenges when school buildings were suddenly closed due to COVID-19. Staff began delivering lessons in different ways including online lessons as well as providing a paper copy option for every student. Providing instruction at home was also a challenge for families as classrooms remained empty for the remainder of the school year.

W.C. Schools continued offering breakfast and lunch to all students. Parents were able to pick up meals each week at one of eight locations throughout the district.

Staff kept in touch with students and families through emails, phone calls and e-newsletters. Pictures and videos from staff let students know they were loved and missed. It certainly wasn't the same as a school classroom experience, but it did showcase a variety of creative communications!

COVID-19 also affected the school calendar for Harold Schnell Elementary. For over 40 years, the school operated on a year-round calendar. District officials and parents knew the traditional and year-round calendars would eventually be blended with the construction and opening of new schools. Typically, a new school year would begin in July, however, given the unique circumstances this year, the 2020-2021 calendar will now be the same for all schools.

The new school buildings projects have continued. Meetings with staff and parents prior to March 13 were held to discuss ideas for the classrooms as well as design options for the buildings. Thanks to the support of the school community, these projects are fully into the planning process for the K-2 and 5-6 grades sites. Meetings with staff including teachers, custodians and lunchroom employees will continue through the summer to discuss the requirements and essentials for all areas throughout the schools.

Follow the district's news and updates on the Facebook page, West Carrollton City Schools, or at [www.westcarrolltonschools.com](http://www.westcarrolltonschools.com).

## W.C. Branch Library

The **'Ask Me Line'** - (937) 463-2665 - is answered Monday to Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday 12-3 p.m. Get help finding items to borrow and arrange for item pickup at your nearest Branch Library.

**Curbside Pickup** has begun. Hours are Tuesday to Friday, 3-6 p.m. and Saturday, 12-3 p.m. Here's how to use the service:

- ▶ Reserve items using the online catalog or call the 'Ask Me Line.'
- ▶ A text message, email, or phone call will let you know items are ready for pickup.
- ▶ Call (937) 463-2665 to arrange for pickup at the Library of your choice.
- ▶ Upon arrival, your bagged materials can either be placed directly into your vehicle trunk, or you can pick up your marked bag at the Library entrance.

### Have Items to Return?

Place items directly into the book drop or Automated Materials Handler. All returned items are quarantined for four days and then 'checked in' prior to the next borrower receiving the items.

**Homebound Delivery** - a service for our most vulnerable populations to receive books and materials who can't get to the Library has returned. Delivery and pickup are non-contact only; staff do no enter homes. Bagged materials will be left on a porch, doorstep, etc. To

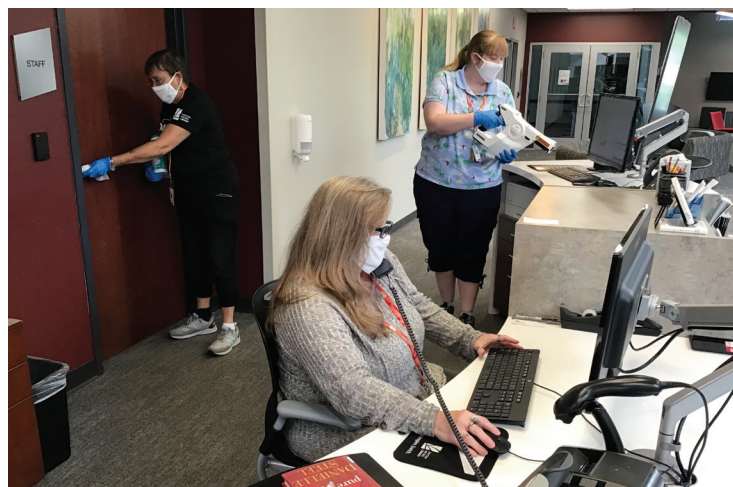
request Homebound Delivery, call the 'Ask Me Line' to connect to Outreach Services.

The virtual **Summer Challenge** - 'Imagine Your Story' - runs June 1 to August 1. Infants through teenagers can earn credit and PRIZES for reading, attending virtual camps, watching online programs, volunteering, completing suggested activities and more. Visit [DaytonMetroLibrary.org/summer](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org/summer) and join the Summer Challenge Facebook Group under the Dayton Metro Library page.

'Imagine Your Story' - **Virtual Adventure & Reading Camp** is July 13-17 at 10 a.m. for grades K-3. It's a high-energy week exploring local attractions, doing crafts, singing, dancing, playing and reading together with ThinkTV and PBS Kids.

Subscribe to the new FOCUS eNewsletter at [www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/enews](http://www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/enews). Dedicated toward parents, families and educators, you'll find information on Library programs, tools, and services to make entertaining and educating children of all ages more effective and fun.

Be assured that Library staff are working to protect our patrons and co-workers by adjusting schedules, physical distancing, wearing masks, and frequently sanitizing surfaces. We appreciate your patience and continued support!





WEST CARROLLTON

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US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
DAYTON OH  
PERMIT 45

## City Council

Mayor Jeff Sanner.....859-8000  
jsanner@westcarrollton.org

Rick Barnhart.....859-8713  
rbarnhart@westcarrollton.org

Angie Fryman .....361-5911  
afryman@westcarrollton.org

Leanne Nash .....673-1007  
lnash@westcarrollton.org

Harold Robinson.....847-2111  
hrobinson@westcarrollton.org

Jill Tomlin .....510-3216  
jtomlin@westcarrollton.org

Amanda Zennie.....344-1762  
azennie@westcarrollton.org

## City Services

City Manager.....847-4633

Building Inspection.....859-5184

Code Enforcement.....859-5184

Economic Development.....847-4643

Fire Department Administration.....847-4645

Income Tax.....859-8288

Parks & Recreation.....859-5182

Planning/Community Dev.....859-5783

Police Department.....859-3688

Public Relations.....847-4634

Streets/Refuse.....859-8280

Water/Sewer.....859-8280

## Community Services

Board of Elections.....225-5656

Bogg Food Ministry .....435-6181

Bureau of Motor Vehicles.....866-9511

Montgomery Co. Auditor .....225-4326

Post Office .....859-5163

West Carrollton Branch Library.....496-8962

West Carrollton School System .....859-5121

WIC .....859-7974

W.C. Food Pantry .....847-2274

## Please Join Us:

Regularly scheduled monthly meetings held at the West Carrollton Civic Center

**300 E. Central Ave.**

### City Council

2nd & 4th Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

### City Beautiful Commission

3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m.

### Recreation Board

3rd Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

### Planning Commission

1st Thursday 6:30 p.m.

### Board Of Zoning Appeals

2nd Thursday 6:30 p.m.

## Calendar of Events

July 3: City Offices Closed – NO Trash Delay

July 6-10: Quarterly Bulk Pickup on Regular Trash Collection Day

July 13-31: Chalk Art Contest – Virtual Event

July 25-26: Family Campout, Hintermeister Park, 7 p.m.-9 a.m.

August 3-10: Build a Fairy/Gnome House, Weidner Park, Ongoing During Week

August 8: Bike Rodeo, Wilson Park, 10-11:30 a.m.

September 7: City Offices Closed – NO Trash Delay

September 19: Raptor Center Visit: Owls at Civic Center, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

## Contact the City by E-Mail

### Administration:

managersoffice@westcarrollton.org

### Community Development:

plan@westcarrollton.org

### Parks & Recreation:

parks@westcarrollton.org

### Police Department:

police@westcarrollton.org

### Fire Department:

freadmin@westcarrollton.org

### Human Resources:

hrmanager@westcarrollton.org

### Finance Department:

FinanceDir@westcarrollton.org

### Economic Development:

ed@westcarrollton.org

### Service Department:

service@westcarrollton.org

### Public Relations:

publicrelations@westcarrollton.org