

WESTWALKER WIRE

JANUARY 2011

www.westwalker.org

WWCA Celebrates the Season at the 2010 Holiday Party

by Mike Webber

ON DECEMBER 18, our first daytime, kid-friendly Holiday Party was held at the

Tapestry Center on Irving Park Road. It was a small start, but just like the Halloween Party and Fall Festival, we hope it will continue to grow.

Those who attended were treated to a wonderful setting, including a Christmas tree, fireplace, and holiday music. Milk, juice, and cookies were enjoyed by all. Kids and adults enjoyed coloring Christmas tree ornaments to take home. It was a great way to get out of the house and



from the WWCA!

meet new neighbors. We hope to see many new neighbors there next year!

You can now pay your WWCA dues—with either PayPal or a credit card—at the West Walker website (www.westwalker.org)!

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

REMINDER: No January meeting. See you March 15 at the next WWCA General Meeting.

January 15 ● 5 p.m.

"Farmer Vicki Westerhoff Tells Her Story" St. John's Episcopal Speaker Series 3857 N. Kostner Ave.

January 19 ● 7 p.m.

Beat 1723 CAPS meeting 17th Dist. Police Station Community Rm. 4650 N. Pulaski Road

January 22 • 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Seed Starting Basics Workshop Kilbourn Park & Organic Greenhouse 3501 N. Kilbourn Ave.

January 22 • 11 a.m.

Silver Skates Citywide Speed Skating Championships McFetridge Sports Center 3843 N. Čalifornia Ave.

January 22 ● 2-4 p.m.
Retirement Party Open House for Margaret Dunne Independence Branch Library 3548 W.Irving Park Road

February 10 • 6:30 p.m

6th Annual Daddy-Daughter/Mother-Son Valentine Dance, Mayfair Park 4550 W. Sunnyside Ave.

February 11 • 6:30 p.m

Daddy-Daughter/Mother-Son Valentine Dance, Horner Park 2741 W. Montrose Ave.

February 12 • 10 a.m.

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents Storyteller Oba William King Irving Park Lutheran Church 4100 N. Harding Ave.

You can also visit our Community Calendar online at: http://westwalker.org/calendar.html



Dear Neighbor,

I HOPE EVERYONE has enjoyed the holiday season and is ready for 2011. The turning of the New Year allows us to reflect on what has been and what will come in the future. I prefer the future, because I can do something about it. That being said, much of this column addresses unfinished business.

Most important, we are still seeking candidates for the *Wire* editor and treasurer positions. As I have noted in the past, a volunteer organization can only run when it has volunteers. Both of these positions are essential to the function of the WWCA. The editor position requires desktop publishing expertise and some general editing and writing tasks. The treasurer keeps track of income, primarily from dues, advertising, and donations, and pays expenses for WWCA operations. The *Wire* editor position must be filled within the next three months, or we will risk losing our ability to publish the *Wire*. Please contact Mike Webber or any officer or board member if you are able to contribute.

Once again, on page 11 of the January *Wire* is a short survey we would like all neighbors to complete. If you haven't done so, please complete one soon, as this is the last month for the survey. The WWCA Board needs the input of all our neighbors in order to adapt and respond to the needs of the community. Please take a few minutes to read and complete the survey. If you prefer, go to the WWCA website (www.westwalker.org), where you can click on the survey link "We need your input!" and fill out the survey online. Please return the completed written survey to board member Dorie Westmeyer at 4128 N. Springfield Ave., Chicago, IL 60618.

The Zoning Committee is completing its receipt of public comment on the 4247-4259 Elston Avenue residential proposal. If you have not done so and would still like to provide your input, please do so soon. Several plans that were reviewed at the meeting have been posted on the West Walker website for review. I would invite anyone who wishes to do so to review all these materials and forward your comments to me at webber.wwca@gmail.com. You can also use the e-mail link on the West Walker website to forward your comments. My phone number is also included in the *Wire* masthead. All of your comments will be considered by the Zoning Committee and the WWCA Board in making their recommendations regarding this project proposal.

Finally, the Elston Avenue proposal has shown us that there are many people who are very interested in the direction of the development of West Walker. The WWCA Board is considering reinvigorating the Vision Committee to take on the implementation of the goals articulated in the Vision Statement. This concept is in its early stages, but I would like to gauge interest by those who would be willing to participate in the Vision process. Once again, you can't run a volunteer organization without volunteers. Again, please contact Mike Webber or any officer or board member if you are interested.

I wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

Mike Webber, President, West Walker Civic Association

WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

West Walker Mission Statement

"The pursuit of the West Walker Civic Association is to make our diverse neighborhood the best it can be by securing the services, safeguards and improvements the West Walker community is entitled to have."

Celebrating more than 98 years of service to the West Walker Community

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Send crime concerns to **Nicole Price** at crimealerts@westwalker.org.

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The West Walker Wire is published monthly September through June by the West Walker Civic Association.

All story ideas, text, and ads are due a week before the first of the month. Submit ideas and text to: west_walker_wire@yahoo.com.

West_warker_wire@yanoo.com.

Please include a phone number in case
we need to follow up with you. We reserve
the right to edit all submissions for space
and content.

For information on advertising, please contact Shannan Bunting at WWWire@solsticepr.com



Be a Good Neighbor: Please Shovel Your Walks!

AS A REMINDER, Chicago City Code requires property owners to remove snow and ice from the sidewalks in front of their properties.

Snow that accumulates before 4 p.m. must be removed within three hours after the snow has fallen. Snow that accumulates after 4 p.m. or during the night shall be removed before 10 a.m.

Non-compliance can result in ticketing and fines.

Use the online City of Chicago 311 system for reporting sidewalks that have not been cleared of snow or ice. Go to: https://servicerequest.cityofchicago.org/web_intake_chic/Controller

- 1. Request a "Sidewalk Survey"
- 2. Enter address of the uncleared sidewalk
- 3. Condition of sidewalk drop down, select "other"
- 4. Under additional comments include "Snow and Ice Removal" and provide additional details that are relevant.

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- \cdot $\,$ The Wire is published 10 times a year (September through June).
- ALL AD ARTWORK is due on the 20th of the month prior. Highresolution pdfs, tiffs, and jpgs (black-and-white) are preferred. Microsoft Word files and camera-ready "hard copy" versions also are acceptable.
- · WE PREFER that ad artwork be submitted as a file attachment and sent in an e-mail to: WWWire@solsticepr.com.

SEND ALL AD COPY AND PAYMENTS (AND ANY AD QUESTIONS) TO: SHANNAN BUNTING AT WWWIRE@solsticepr.com 4214 N. RIDGEWAY · CHICAGO, IL 60618



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St. John's Episcopal Church Presents Its 2011 Speaker Series

ST. JOHN'S Episcopal Church, located at 3857 N. Kostner Ave., is presenting the following speaker series in 2011:

January 15, 5 p.m.

"Farmer Vicki Westerhoff Tells Her Story": Vicki Westerhoff distributes fresh produce throughout Chicago and Northern Illinois for nine months of the year through her Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm, Genesis Growers.

February 19, 5 p.m.

"Prisoner of Her Past" screening, featuring Howard Reich for Q & A: Howard Reich is the veteran jazz critic of the *Chicago Tribune* and winner of the Deems Taylor Award, two William Jones Investigative Reporting Awards, and three Peter Lisagor Awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, among other honors.

March 19, 5 p.m.

"Changing Face of Racial Discrimination: 1910-2010 and Our Response," Reverend Calvin S. Morris: Rev. Calvin S. Morris, Ph.D. serves as executive director of the Community Renewal Society, a faith-based social advocacy organization in Chicago focusing on issues of race and poverty.

April 16, 5 p.m.

"Dangerous Religious Ideas," Rabbi Rachel Mikva: Rachel S. Mikva is the Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman Chair of Jewish Studies at Chicago Theological Seminary. She served as a congregational rabbi for 13 years before returning to academia.

For more information, visit www.stjohnschicago.com or call 773.725.9026.

Have a CAPS issue?

You can submit concerns to CAPS online at https://portal.chicagopolice.org/portal//
page/portal/ClearPath. Then, on the left-hand side, click "Report a concern about an issue affecting your neighborhood."

www.westwalker.org West Walker Wire

WEST WALKER

39th Ward Report



I HOPE that everyone had a very happy holiday season. After all of the family gatherings, parties, and celebrations comes the clean-up. If you have a live tree, you can recycle it at North Park Village, 5801 North Pulaski, from Saturday, January 1 through Monday, January 17. Your tree will be chipped and

turned into mulch. What do you do with broken or old holiday lights? Recycle them! Lights can be dropped off at 12 locations around the city. The closest location to West Walker is the Edgebrook Ace Hardware at 5423 W. Devon. For more information on these programs, visit chicagorecycles.org.

Early voting for the 2011 Municipal Election will be held Monday, January 31 through Thursday, February 17. As in past elections, the closest location to the West Walker community is the Administration Building at North Park Village, 5801 N. Pulaski. Voting hours at North Park Village are 9 a.m. through 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. You can also early vote at the Chicago Board of Elections, 69 W. Washington. They have extended hours on Sundays from 9 a.m. until noon.

Are you interested in having the latest updates about events, city programs, and the 39th Ward news? Please consider joining my e-mail list. I send out periodic e-mails to share up-to-date information with 39th Ward constituents. Your e-mail address is safe and secure—we will never share or release your information. You can sign up for the 39th Ward e-mail news on the lower left of our website at www.AldermanLaurino.com.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my public service office at 773.736.5594 or e-mail us at Ward39@cityofchicago.org.

Sincerely, Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward

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New Year's Resolutions for a Greener West Walker

by Michelle Kaicener greenwestwalker@gmail.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Hopefully everyone has some great resolutions in mind for the new year. I have a few of my own:

- Plant more edible perennials, herbs, and berries in the garden
- Plant more flowers that attract pollinators, e.g., Echinacea, sage, aster, milkweed, joe pye weed, hyssop, lavender, catmint
- Start riding my bike earlier in the year and use the trailer to go shopping
- Bake bread at home
- Connect in a second rain barrel for more water storage
- Investigate permeable pavers for the yard
- Build the West Walker Sustainability Group

On the last topic, I decided this is the year for getting folks together who are interested in the topic of sustainability. This is a very big topic, which affects many areas of our daily lives, including the way we construct our neighborhoods, the way we procure resources, what we eat, where we work, where we shop.

I hope we will be able to generate some good discussion in our web forum, and gather together to run worthwhile projects for the neighborhood.

Please join us at West Walker Sustainability Group at http://www.westwalker.net.



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News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Pantry Thanks All for Holiday Help!

We want to give a big thank you to everyone in the neighborhood who helped make the Irving Park Community Food Pantry's holiday distributions so successful. We appreciate all of your volunteer efforts and donations of food, toys, and money, which helped make Thanksgiving and the holiday season a little brighter and definitely more filling for many of our neighbors.

During the Thanksgiving distribution on November 17, the pantry supplied the makings for a Thanksgiving dinner to 419 households comprising 1,295 people, all in the 60641 and western portion of the 60618 ZIP codes. Thanks to the 75 volunteers who helped the night before and during the distribution, especially Jim Byrne, Rick Lietl, and Nick Calderone for their tireless efforts to ensure it moved smoothly.

Thanks also to the groups who held community food drives during the holiday season. These drives helped ensure we had enough food both for our regular distributions and our special holiday programs. Those drives were especially critical when our order from the Greater Chicago Food Depository did not arrive the week of December 8, requiring us to use up our pantry supplies to ensure our clients received their full allotment of a three-day food supply.

Those groups who organized drives in November include: St. Viator's Elementary School, Belding School, St. Patrick's High School, Mather High School, and Disney Magnet II School, Mt. Olive Church Community Canvas, John Arena (candidate for 45th Ward alderman), Orbitz, Weight Watcher's Portage Park location, and Kid Watch. Additional food drives were planned for December and January. If your group would like to coordinate a drive to collect non-perishable food, please contact John Psiharis at 773.283.6296 or info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org,

In December, the Pantry received a \$1,000 grant from the Jewel/Greater Chicago Food Depository Relief grant to help cover GCFD expenses. We also received an \$800 matching gift from Thrivent Financial for our holiday distribution and an anonymous donation of 15 Jewel gift cards. Thanks to everyone for your monetary donations throughout the year.

Board president Kate Roche spoke on the morning (continued on page 7)



WWCA Members

THANKS FOR RENEWING or becoming members of WWCA! A list of those neighbors who have joined or renewed from November 28 through December 30, 2010 appears below.

Connie & Davor Engel
Evelyn McGuire
Bill Palmer
Mark Pascale & Susan Matthews
Gerald Radek
Vincent Roberts

(continued from page 6)

show at Polski Radio in early December to promote our services to the Polish community. Several new clients and volunteer inquiries were received immediately after the broadcast. Thanks to Anna Sobor for arranging this opportunity.

Executive Director John Psiharis was elected 2011 copresident of the Northside Anti-Hunger Network, which coordinates activities for 18 local social-services facilities. He will serve alongside Scott Best, director of Common Pantry at 3744 N. Damen Ave.

Our website offers an easy way to donate, and we received some significant contributions over the holiday season from the site. Please check it out at www. irvingparkfoodpantry.org. We appreciate all your help and hope everyone has a great 2011!

LIKE TO WRITE, EDIT, AND LAY OUT DOCUMENTS?

Dear Neighbor:

Want to assist the WWCA from the comfort of your own computer?

Become the next editor of the West Walker Wire!

- Time commitment is a few hours a month, plus attendance at WWCA Board meetings
- Previous desktop publishing experience needed
- Train with the current editor
- Position begins with the April issue

Interested? Want more information?
Contact WWCA President Mike Webber at
773.539.8346 or webber.wwca@gmail.com
or any WWCA Board member.

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News and Events from Carlson Community Services



Irving Park Carlson Ministries, a 501(c) (3) non-profit, serves the Irving Park

community with a variety of outreach efforts. For more information, visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org.

IPFAC Presents Storyteller Oba William King February 12

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is pleased to present a performance for children on Saturday, February 12 at 10 a.m. (please note date change). Oba William King, a storyteller in the West African griot tradition, will weave together songs, stories, and drumming to entertain audiences of all ages. Known as the Poetic Storyteller, King celebrates African American heritage and diversity in his interactive performances.

The performance will be held at the Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. Admission is free of



Oba William King, a storyteller in the West African griot tradition, will perform for children on Saturday, February 12 at the Irving Park Lutheran Church.

charge, although donations will be accepted. An informal reception with the artist will follow the performance.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Series, now in its 17th season, was begun by Roger L. Bingaman, director of music at Irving Park Lutheran Church. The intent of the series is to bring high-quality, professional musical and theatrical events to the Irving Park neighborhood.

On Sunday, February 27, IPFAC will present a free chamber music concert featuring the Naperville Chamber Players. The concert will feature Dorothy Deen, cello and Marie Bennett, flute. The final classical music concert of the season will take place on April 10 at 2 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee receives funding from Carlson Community Services.

Three Brothers Garden Yields 725 Pounds of Vegetables

The 2010 growing season was a bountiful one for the Three Brothers Garden, located at 4107 N. Pulaski Road. More than 725 pounds of fresh produce were grown in the garden and delivered to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, a 30 percent increase over last year's harvest. The food pantry serves people in part of the 60618 zip code, and all of 60641.

Throughout the summer, garden volunteers planted, watered, weeded, and harvested. Approximately 25 regular volunteers helped with the project, while an additional 75 volunteered occasionally. From novices to master gardeners, all were invited to share the experience of growing organic food in the neighborhood. Groups from various scout troops, churches, and employers also worked in the garden, sharing the joy of gardening among friends.

To keep the garden growing, a campaign to raise funds to bring water onto the site will kick off in late winter. Currently, garden volunteers must transport hoses to and from an off-site storage garage and connect them to a nearby building each day that the garden needs to be watered. An on-site water source will make this labor-intensive job quicker and easier for volunteers. The estimate to do the work to City of Chicago code is \$6,000.

Alderman Margaret Laurino (39th Ward), a supporter of green initiatives in the ward, has pledged to match donations for the project up to \$3,000. If you'd like to donate to the project, go to www. carlsoncommunityservices.org and click on "Giving" and then "Donate."

Begun nearly three years ago by Carlson Community Services and Irving Park Lutheran Church, the mission of the garden is to reduce hunger by providing pantry clients with fresh vegetables. Weekly harvests are held during the summer months and vegetables are delivered



A Harvest Pot Luck was held in the Three Brothers Garden to celebrate the year's bountiful harvest.

to the pantry for distribution the next day. In addition to 20 raised growing beds, the garden features an ornamental gathering space and a pergola, providing a peaceful oasis on a busy stretch of Pulaski Road. All are welcome to enjoy the garden!

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Liz Mills, executive director at 773.398.6766 or lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Retirement Party Open House for Children's Librarian Margaret Dunne

MARGARET DUNNE, the children's librarian at Independence Branch Library, is retiring after 25 years of dedicated and fun-loving service. She has touched countless lives.

To celebrate her many years of service, we welcome everyone to a retirement party open house at:

Independence Branch Library 3548 W. Irving Park Road Saturday, January 22 2-4 p.m.

If you are interested in donating any store-bought appetizers, desserts, or drinks, please contact Roberta Bole, president of the Friends of Independence Library, at 773.588.4057 or email her at robertabole@hotmail. com; or Mike Kolasinski, Independence Library Artist Council chairperson at mbkolasinski@earthlink.net or 773.583.8391.

We are also accepting monetary donations for a group gift.

The West Walker Sustainability Group

West Walker Wire

The Transformation of Elston Avenue We Have The Vision We Need A Plan Support Our Efforts In Transforming Elston Avenue

into a bustling "Main Street" and pedestrian-friendly shopping district, where we can walk to restaurants and specialty shops, drawing the West Walker community together.

Help us develop the plan to achieve the vision.

We don't need to build 6 condo buildings at 4247 N Elston to do this.

That will only lead to more congestion, parking problems. & more condos

Join the growing number of West Walker residents who want to see other options for 4247 N Elston and a plan for Elston Avenue.

If you agree, send us an e-mail: elston@westwalker.net or use our petition. at our Website at WESTWALKER.NET and also learn about sustainability.

This message provided by Institute Services, a West Walker Web Development business HighStyleInteractive.com as a community service in support of The West Walker Sustainability Group





CICS-Irving Park School News

Open House

CICS-IP is holding an open house for prospective parents

on Tuesday, February 15 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. The elementary school, located at Spaulding and Grace, is accepting applications for the 2011-12 school year for children entering kindergarten through eighth grades. The administration, teachers, and parents will be present. For more information, visit our website at www. cicsirvingpark.org.

Holiday Luncheon

Our annual holiday staff luncheon was held on Dec. 15. Many thanks to Barry Sorkin and his staff at Smoque BBQ, who generously supplied their tasty treats for our hard-working teachers.

St. Viator School News

See our beautiful school and recreation center/gym on Saturday, January 29 from 2:30 to 4:30. Find out what makes us special when you meet our teachers, parents and students.

You can now pay your WWCA dues—with either PayPal or a credit card—at the West Walker website (www. westwalker.org)!

Phone: 773-539-1200 Fax: 773-539-1482



4110 N. Elston Ave. Chicago, IL 60618 www.gardenchicago.com

PAUL, JACK & JEAN PRIKOS

This year we will host special open houses highlighting a floor each month, so you can see what St. Viator is like up close. The whole school will be open for viewing, including the library and gymnasium.

On Wednesday, February 16 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. we will highlight the first floor. The 3- and 4-year-old pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms will be showcased, and the parent-run, fine arts program, "Art Zone." will be in session.

Please feel free to contact the school office at 773.545.2173 with questions or to schedule a personal tour with one of our staff. We'd be delighted to show you around.

Happenings at St. Edward School

Happy New Year! The St. Edward community hopes everyone had a wonderful holiday and would like to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Open House

Discovery Sunday 2011 will be held on January 30 from 10:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This open house is a great opportunity to see the school and meet faculty and students and learn about the school's superb values-oriented curriculum and its strong computer, after-school care, and music and sports programs, and other extracurricular activities.

Discovery Sunday kicks off Catholic Schools Week and celebrates St. Edward's 100 years of providing quality education.

100th Anniversary Celebration

St. Edward School will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Sunday, February 20! To honor the school, Cardinal George will celebrate Mass at St. Edward Church at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

A dinner-dance will follow Mass at the Irish American Heritage Center. Tickets can be purchased on St. Edward School's website at www.stedwardschool.com.

For more information, call St. Edward School at 773.736.9133.



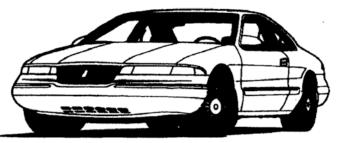
YOUR OPINION IS IMPORTANT! PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

Dear Neighbors:

The West Walker Civic Association (WWCA) is constantly striving to improve our efforts for our community. In order to serve you best, we need your input. Please take a moment to fill out the questionnaire and return it to: **Dorie Westmeyer**, **4128 N. Springfield Ave., Chicago, IL 60618**. You can also fill out this survey online at **www.westwalker.org**.

| A. WWCA MEETINGS WWCA currently sponsors six community meetings annually. Typically there is a guest speaker followed by a | The WWCA should save printing costs by changing the <i>Wire</i> to an electronic newsletterI patronize businesses who advertise in the <i>Wire</i> |
|---|---|
| community meeting. | C. WEST WALKER WEBSITE |
| 1. Have you attended a meeting in the past year?yes (go to question 2)no (go to question 3) | 7. What would you like to see on the Website?Crime statistics in our neighborhoodA place to submit my concerns |
| 2. If you have attended a meeting, did you find it beneficial?yes (additional comments)no (additional comments) | Local business coupon offersCalendar of West Walker eventsEvent informationLinks to (please specify) |
| 2.16 | Other (please specify) |
| 3. If you do not attend WWCA community meetings, please tell us why (check all that apply):a. I don't know when or where the meetings areb. I don't have time | D. WEST WALKER EVENTS The West Walker Civic Association sponsors several events throughout the year. |
| c. The meeting time is not convenient d. I can't bring my children e. The speakers are not interesting to me f. It should just be a community meeting without a speaker g. I am just not interested in going to a meeting h. The meetings run too long i. There is no agenda for the meeting j. Other (please specify) | 8. Please tell us which West Walker events you attend:The Winter Social (February)The Garage Sale (May)Walk West Walker Scavenger Hunt (May)The 4th of July at Independence Park (July)West Walker Cup Golf Outing (September)The Halloween Fall Festival (October)Art in My Backyard (AIMBY) |
| | / It iii ///y backydia (II/Ib/i/ |
| 4. If we continue with WWCA meetings, what type of meetings would you like to see? (check all that apply) a. Brief community meeting b. Social events for the whole family c. Meeting on a weekend vs. a weeknight d. Other speakers (please specify) e. Other (please specify) | 9. Would you like to see more West Walker sponsored events (check all that apply)?Food drive for the Irving Park PantryFundraiser for the homeless in our neighborhoodHoliday partySports day in the park (basketball, softball, soccer, etc.)Family picnicCarnival |
| B. WEST WALKER WIRE | Street fair |
| The West Walker Wire is a free neighborhood newsletter that is published and delivered 10 times a year to your home. | Taste of West Walker (sample food from neighborhood restaurants)Ice cream social |
| 5. Do you read the West Walker Wire? | Other (please specify) |
| yesno | We have enough events already |
| 6. Tell us how you feel about the <i>Wire</i> (check all that apply):The information is helpfulThe articles are interestingI like that it is free | Additional comments or ideas |
| I like that it is delivered to my homeI wish there was more information about (please specify) | 10. Are you a member of the West Walker Civic Association?yesno |
| I wish it was delivered more in advance of the West Walker monthly meeting I would like to save a tree. It should be an | Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey! (Optional) Name |
| electronic newsletter | Address |
| (more options at top of 2nd column) | Email address |

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