

# WEST WALKER WIRE

APRIL 2008

[www.westwalker.org](http://www.westwalker.org)

## April 15th Meeting Features History of West Walker

Did you know that West Walker was once home to a soda shop named the Buffalo? Ever wonder how West Walker got its name? Then join us on April 15th for these fun facts and more. Local historian and Glessner House executive director Bill Tyre will present his history of Old Irving Park and West Walker. Bill has collected many historic photos and much information about the area, which he presents in an entertaining slide show. Don't let tax day stand in the way of a great history lesson! Join us at 7:30 p.m. at the Latvian Community Center, 4146 N. Elston Ave.



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### April 15 • 7:30 p.m.

WWCA General Meeting  
Latvian Community Center  
4146 N. Elston Ave.

### April 16 • 7:00 p.m.

Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting  
17th District Police Station,  
Community Room - 4650 N. Pulaski

### April 21 & 26

Chicago Park District Registration for  
Summer 2008 Programs  
Apr. 21 - online / Apr. 26 - in person  
[www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com)

### April 24 & 25 • 6:30 p.m.

Belding School presents Disney's *High School Musical*  
4257 N Tripp Ave. (More on page 8)

### April 26 • 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Wine Tasting Benefit for Food Pantry  
4433 N Elston (See page 11 for info)

### May 2 • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Reception - Art in My Backyard exhibit  
3955 W. Irving Park Rd. (see page 8)

### May 4 • 12:20 p.m.

GIPNA's Second Annual Craft Fair  
Independence Park Fieldhouse

### May 17 • 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WWCA 23rd Annual Neighborhood  
Garage and Yard Sale  
(see page 7 for registration form)

### May 17

Mayor Daley's Clean & Green Event  
Contact Alderman Laurino's Office for  
Information - (773)736-5594

## Disney II Magnet School

*by Pam Maremont*

On Saturday morning, March 8, Bogdana Chkoumbova, Principal of the Disney II Magnet School spoke to a group of 45 at the Tapestry Center. The meeting, organized by the WWCA, was very informative and there was a lot of excitement and interest from area parents. At the time, the Board of Education had not yet finalized the plan to house Disney II at Irving Park Middle School, located at Kedvale and Grace in the Old Irving Park neighborhood. However on March 26th, the Board voted to approve the location, and Disney II was official! (The board had previously voted to re-locate students from IPMS to Thurgood Marshall Middle School in the Independence Park neighborhood)

*Continued on Page 6*

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

# Dear Neighbor

Guest Columnist *Johanna Zorn, Chair of the Vision Committee*

I'm thrilled to let you know that West Walker Civic Association's Vision Committee is set to launch a new series of arts events this year. Art in My Back Yard, as the series is called, was created as a result of the Vision Committee's efforts to draw up a plan for our neighborhood in the coming years.

During the Vision process, community meetings were held and West Walker residents were asked to describe the kinds of residential developments, businesses and organizations they'd like to see in the area. In addition to the expected call for bookstores, cafes and restaurants, community members said they would welcome a cultural/arts anchor, similar to the Old Town School of Folk Music. Participants talked about how an arts organization offering classes and arts programming would add to the neighborhood, and how it might attract restaurants and cafes that would enliven the area.

The desire for a community arts center became a defining piece of the Vision Statement. The establishment of such a place is a long-term goal, and yet we realized that we don't have to wait for the bricks and mortar of a cultural center before we can start celebrating the arts and the artists living in West Walker.

Artist **Jackie Kazarian** and I came together over coffee a few months back to dream up the first event in our new series, an exhibit featuring local artists. Of course we had to think of a name for the series, and Jackie's very first idea was brilliant. She dubbed the project "Art in My Back Yard," a twist on the less neighborly NOT in My Back Yard, or NIMBY.

Following a call for artists that appeared in the Wire and other area publications, we heard from nearly 40 individuals in the neighborhood and surrounding area. Thanks to everyone who took the time and interest to respond. Jackie's vision from the beginning was to have the exhibit in a storefront so that it would be visible from the street and to walkers by. That too will be happening thanks to the help of **Dawn D'Amico** of PEBA and **Allen Schechtman** of the Legend Group.

And the final piece of this first event recently fell into place when **Lynda Olander** and the wonderful folks over at GIPNA agreed to cosponsor the exhibit, thereby helping us launch the first Art in My Back Yard event.

For details about the exhibit, called **Studios Revealed**, see page 8. I hope you'll join me in this wonderful celebration of our talented neighbors. See you at the gallery!

Johanna Zorn

## 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 95 years of service to the West Walker Community*

### 2007-2008 OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	<b>Liz Mills</b> 267-9298
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### Editor

**Beth Tigue**

*The West Walker Wire is published monthly by the West Walker Civic Association.*

**All story ideas and text are due by the first of the month. Submit ideas and text to: west\_walker\_wire@yahoo.com. Include a phone number in case we need to follow up with you.**

*For information on advertising, please contact Laurie Gardner at 773-866-0665 or ferrislaura@sbcglobal.net*

### Street Sweeping Signage Changing

As of April 1st, street sweeping has started around the city. This year, the Chicago Department of Streets & Sanitation is taking a new, higher visibility approach to posting temporary no parking signs for street sweeping on residential streets.

Gone are the familiar orange temporary no parking signs to caution motorists not to park on that side of the street when street sweeping will take place. In their place are new temporary signs with a similar look but are instead color coded for the day of the week that sweeping will take place.



New No Parking Signs

- Monday will be Blue
- Tuesday will be Red
- Wednesday will be Yellow
- Thursday will be Green
- Friday will be Orange

Be sure to move your car on street sweeping days and avoid costly tickets!

### Dog Owners – Have Fun but be Responsible!

*By Beth Tigue, Wire Editor*

I received an email from a neighbor in the 4200 block of Lawndale asking me to remind dog walkers to dispose of their dog's droppings properly. She said she has found "poop bags" left by dog walkers in her front bushes. I just wanted to take this opportunity to ask dog owners to please be considerate!

In case you aren't aware - there is a city ordinance that owners must pick up and dispose of dog waste. Failure to do so can result in fines from \$50 to \$500. Additionally, leaving droppings is very unsanitary and will invite rats who view the waste as food.

As a dog owner myself who used to live out of state and had a yard that I could just clean up weekly, it was an adjustment to remember to pick up every time my pup and I went outside. But now it's so ingrained as a part of caring for my dog and being kind to my neighbors, that I couldn't imagine not doing the right thing – in fact I usually have a pocketful of bags when I walk my dog.

We have a beautiful neighborhood for dogs, their owners, and their neighbors to enjoy – please keep it that way!

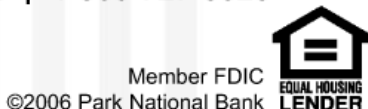
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## WWCA – General Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2008 – 26 present

WWCA Vice-President Evan Price opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The first order of business was a presentation by West Walker resident Jack Prikos of the Farmer's Market Garden Center. Jack said they have organic products available which provide weed control and fertilization without chemicals. Jack gave a timely presentation on the Market and answered questions about gardening. Jack was very excited about improvements at the Market and their emphasis on quality products and outstanding service. He has cultivated relationships with local growers to ensure quality plants of all types, including new varieties which have better disease and insect resistance. New personnel have also been brought in to handle landscape and design needs of the Market's customers. He is also a new dealer for all Weber grill products. The Market is located at 4110 N. Elston.

Also present was Lara Pacelt of the Irving Park YMCA. The Irving Park YMCA has been upgrading and improving its facility and is having an open afternoon for all West Walker neighbors on March 30 2008 to show off the improvements. From martial arts for 3-year-olds to spin classes, programs will be free from 3:00 to 5:00 that afternoon.

The February General Meeting Minutes were approved by voice vote.

Treasurer Bob Beigeske reported a general account balance of \$1,883.97, which was approved by voice vote.

The Winter Social was a success. Some discussion was held about offering a different venue or format for the upcoming events, including a "pay as you go" versus an all-inclusive format.

The Zoning Committee reported on renewed interest in the property at 4247 N. Elston Ave. by developers proposing condominiums. Those plans will be evaluated by the zoning committee and reported on in future meetings.

The Stripp Joynt, located at 4170 North Elston, has been continuing to operate on approval of the City of Chicago Department of the Environment. The business will be subjected to ongoing review and any problems noticed by neighbors should be reported.

Attendees were encouraged to read the CAPS report in the Wire. Residents are urged to attend the monthly CAPS meetings, held the third Wednesday of each month at the 17th District Police Station.

Pam Maremont reported on the recent development of a Disney II magnet school opening in Old Irving Park, with boundaries extending into West Walker. This is an exciting development which will provide new opportunities to younger students entering the CPS system.

The Nominating Committee has formed to nominate the 2008-2009 WWCA officers. Anyone interested in contributing their time to this valuable organization should approach any WWCA Board Officer or Board Member.

The meeting was adjourned by Vice-President, Evan Price.



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## Independence Branch Library Update

*by Roberta Bole, Friends of Independence Branch President*

As many of you know, there has been much discussion over the past few years regarding the future of the Independence branch library. The library is currently housed in a rented storefront at 3548 W. Irving Park Road. Recently, talk has surfaced about the State of Illinois providing funds for a new library building.

I attended the Chicago Public Library Facility Meeting at Harold Washington Library on March 12th. Library Commissioner Mary Dempsey reported that the State has no money for library construction. Although State Senator Iris Martinez requested money for our area to build a new library, none was allocated as there isn't any.

The good news is that part of the City of Chicago's recent tax increase is being allocated to new libraries. In this effort, the Chicago Public Library Board of Trustees will hold three public hearings. The hearing for our region will be held on April 12th at the Sulzer Regional library. Since the hearing will take place prior to the publication of this issue of the Wire, I'll report on the proceedings in a future issue.

Commissioner Dempsey confirmed that the Independence branch is on a list of libraries that are slated for new facilities. It's important that the Library trustees hear from us, as a group and as individuals, so they understand that a new library remains a high priority for our community.

Please send your comments in support of a new library for the Independence branch to:

Chicago Public Library  
Office of the Commissioner  
400 South State Street, 10-N  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

I will keep the West Walker community informed as we move forward in the process.

## "Green" Committee Update - April, 2008

Thank goodness we are seeing signs of Spring at last! The last day or two, I've been seeing the crocuses in flower – how wonderful!

Anyway, I wanted to take a few minutes to update you with some of my activities over the past few months.

- I am working with a condo building in the neighborhood, to try and schedule a meeting with Tom LaPorte at the Department of Water Management, on a potential rain garden project on their parkway. Hopefully we'll have this meeting scheduled within the next week or two.
- On March 6th, a group of us met at Alderman Laurino's office to launch the 39th Ward Blue Cart Advisory Committee. It's great that this effort is starting. While we have quite a ways to go before we have the blue carts ready to go, at least we have made a start, and I will keep you updated as the project progresses.
- I just completed the C3 Leadership Training Course with the Chicago Department of the Environment.

This was an intensive, 4-week program, meeting on Tuesday evenings, and covering aspects of Land, Air, Water and Energy, in the City of Chicago. I was sponsored by Alderman Laurino's office, and would like to thank the Alderman for putting my name forward for this – it was a very interesting course, and I learned a lot!

One of the objectives of the course is to bring environmental improvement projects to the neighborhood. My first project will be "Roll Out the Barrel" – helping you to install a rain barrel in your garden for saving of rain water, to use for watering plants.

I'll be looking for some volunteers to help staff a rain barrel sale in the neighborhood, sometime towards the end of June. I plan to have a location where the barrels can be sold, and some on-hand expertise to assist with the installation, if folks need it.

Stay tuned, and more information will be coming out on that project!

If you are interested in purchasing a rain barrel, please let me know.

If you'd like to volunteer to help at the sale, and possibly learn how to do a rain barrel installation, please also let me know!

Thanks!  
*Michelle Kaicener*  
[mkaicener@earthlink.net](mailto:mkaicener@earthlink.net)

Website of the Month : <http://rainbarrelguide.com/>

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## Disney II Magnet School

*Continued from Page 1*

### IMPORTANT DATES

March 27	Tuition-based Pre-K application and two weeks tuition deposit due.
April 25	Application Deadline
By May 9	Find out if you're in

75% of students will be from the 1.5 mile proximity lottery (increased from 50% because there is no sibling lottery this year.) The remaining 25% will be from a citywide lottery.

### PRESCHOOL

- Tuition-based Pre-K (TBPK) will be offered. There will be slots for 20 3- and 4-year-olds with preference given to 4-year-olds—all on a first come first served basis. The hours for TBPK are going to 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and the cost will be between \$8000 - \$9000 for the school year. It should be noted that acceptance into the TBPK does not guarantee admission to kindergarten at Disney II.
- The first 20 families to apply with a check for 2 WEEKS TUITION attached will get the spots. The rest get their money back and put on a waiting list.
- Two adults per classroom
- State Pre-K or Pre-School For All is being offered also. There will 2 classes of 20 for 2.5 hours a day—a morning and afternoon group.
- Preference for admission to the State-based Pre-K will be given to at-risk children (i.e. special needs, low-income, English as a second language).

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- In the first year, two classes per grade will be offered with 25 students per class for kindergarten through 2nd grade, “growing” a grade each year up to 8th grade by 2012. The school day will be 6 hours 45 minutes. The school day at Disney II will be an hour longer than other CPS programs to accommodate recess, music, gym and art classes. The kindergarten will be full-day.

The focus of Disney II will be on arts and technology. The school is receiving \$500,000 in funding from the Renaissance School Fund to roll-out the technology program (including 1 computer for every 2 students), more money from a Boeing grant, and CPS funding for school renovations, including an elevator to make it handicap accessible. To justify this funding and because this is a “Performance School Model,” Disney II will have a very strict performance plan. They will be held highly accountable for delivering a successful academic program, as well as sticking to their budget, etc.

The school year will begin with a full special services staff including a school psychologist, speech pathologist and occupational therapist. It should be noted that the principal will not be hiring an assistant principal this year and will direct those funds to hiring specialized staff and classroom enhancements. Several elective programs were discussed and will all be encouraged, including - but not limited to - foreign language (Chinese or Spanish), sports, before & after school, accelerated and remedial programs, and a once-a-month weekend “parent academy.” The school will be looking for parent involvement and community support in any way people are able to give, such as:

- Transitional Governing Body/decision making
- Eventually parents groups for topics such as bilingual, special needs, etc.
- Technology
- Classroom assistance

Applications for the elementary school will be accepted by the Office of Academic Enhancement from March 27th through April 25th. Students will be selected through a computerized lottery. Letters of notification will be mailed to parents by May 9th. Applications can be found at [cpsmagnet.org](http://cpsmagnet.org) or at IPMS or Disney I. If you have further questions, contact the Office of Academic Enhancement at (773) 553-2060.

If the participation in the informational meetings, public hearings and internet groups is any indication, then West Walker and the surrounding neighborhoods are very excited at the prospect of Disney II becoming part of our community.



# West Walker Civic Association

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Neighborhood Garage and Yard Sale

### Saturday May 17, 2008, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Rain or Shine

All West Walker residents are invited to participate in our 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Garage and Yard Sale.

The sale will be advertised in the Chicago Tribune and neighborhood newspapers. Signs will be posted on the main perimeter streets. **3,000 MAPS INDICATING THE LOCATION OF EACH REGISTERED ADDRESS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THE WEEK OF THE SALE.**

Under current city ordinance, every home having a garage sale ***MUST DISPLAY*** a Garage Sale Permit, which must be acquired from the Alderman's office. The Garage and Yard Sale Committee will file the applications for permits and obtain the permits for all paid participants. To accomplish this, we must have your paid application to participate by ***May 10, 2008.***

Return the form below to have your address listed as a participant in the sale, along with your application fee. Remember, your fee covers purchasing ads in newspapers, as well as the distribution of maps throughout the area. For further information call Bob Crowley at (773) 267-1921.

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WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION GARAGE AND YARD SALE  
Saturday, May 17, 2008

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a current member of the West Walker Civic Association. Enclosed is my **\$5.00** participation fee.

I am **not now** a member of the West Walker Civic Association. Enclosed is my **\$15.00** participation fee. Please credit \$10.00 towards my West Walker Civic Association 2007-2008 dues.

Please make your check payable to: WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
Mail or drop off your form and payment to: Bob Crowley, 4125 N. Harding Ave, Chicago, IL 60618

## WWCA in Partnership with GIPNA Launches

### "Art in My Back Yard."

by Johanna Zorn



**Studios Revealed** is the aptly named first event in the Art in My Back Yard arts series. Works created by artists living in and around our neighborhoods will be exhibited in what is now a vacant storefront at Irving Park near Pulaski during the month of May. Local artist Jackie Kazarian visited over a dozen home studios (hence the name!) and chose the art work for this special exhibit.

**Studios Revealed** is free and open to the public, and includes paintings, drawings, photography, ceramics, sculptures and video from over 20 neighborhood artists. All sale proceeds go directly to the artists.

Exhibition:	May 2 - May 30
Opening Reception:	May 2, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Hours:	Fridays & Saturdays 2 - 6 p.m. Sundays 12 - 4 p.m.
Location:	3955 W. Irving Park Road

Please join your neighbors for the opening reception of **Studios Revealed** on Friday, May 2, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Come see what's cookin' behind closed doors and support cultural programs in the community!

### News from St. Viator's

**New Student Registration for the 2008-09 School Year.** Registration for NEW students for the upcoming 2008-09 school year will take place Monday, April 14, through Friday, April 25. All requirements and forms are available at [www.stviatorchicago.org](http://www.stviatorchicago.org), or call the school office at (773) 545-2173.

**St. Viator Eagle Invitational Volleyball League.** St. Viator Eagle Invitational Girls Volleyball League begins on April 7th. The matches run every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for grades fifth through eighth. If you have any questions about the Invitational you can contact Maureen Lontoc at (773) 510-4449.

**St. Viator Open House, Art Show and Curriculum Fair, Sunday, May 4th.** On Sunday, May 4, 2008, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. all are invited to view the artistic and academic achievements of our students. We hope you can visit your neighborhood school! (St. Viator Elementary School, 4140 West Addison Street)

### Belding School News

**Belding Preschool Expands.** In fall of 2008, Belding will add a new preschool class in its main school building. Applications will be accepted April 14-18. The new classroom will add 20 slots for the morning session and 20 slots for the afternoon program.

**Open House / Enrollment at Belding.** If you're interested in learning more about Belding, a Chicago Literature/Writing Magnet Cluster school, submitting an application for preschool, or enrolling your child in K-8, please visit during open enrollment April 14-18. Contact the school for more information at (773) 534-3590.

**Belding School presents Disney's High School Musical.** Come see the Belding student production of Disney's *High School Musical* on Thursday, April 24th and Friday, April 25th. Admission is \$3. Doors open at 6:15 PM, curtain rises at 6:30 PM.

**Interested in Learning more about Belding?** Sign up for the *Friends of Belding* email list to get occasional updates regarding the activities and changes at Belding. Contact Lynn Ankney, [JLAnkney@Prodigy.net](mailto:JLAnkney@Prodigy.net).

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# Office Report: 39th Ward



Spring is here, finally! That means it's time to reserve **Saturday, May 17th** for **Mayor Daley's Spring Clean and Green Event**. This is a great opportunity for everyone to get involved and help beautify our ward. As in the past, we will offer Blue Recycling Bags to each volunteer. Please contact my public service office with any questions or to register for this event.

The Department of Streets and Sanitation has begun **street sweeping**. Street sweeping occurs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on weekdays. Please watch for the signs posted on your street restricting parking.

Next time you see your **West Walker neighbor, Peg Klimek**, tell her congratulations! She is about to be inducted in the **City of Chicago's Senior Hall of Fame**. Peg's dedication to the community is unparalleled, serving as an active Board Member of West Walker for 45 years. Peg epitomizes the spirit of the Senior Hall of Fame awards and is an inspiration to all who know her. The Senior Hall of Fame recognition honors Peg's selfless contributions to her neighbors and her community.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my public service office at (773) 736-5594 or email us at ward39@cityofchicago.org.

*Sincerely, Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward*

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### *Open House Schedule*

SUNDAYS	March 16, 2008
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	April 20, 2008
	May 18, 2008

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- Performance arts instruction
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- Before and after-school care

**Please call for more information!**

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Just south of the Irving/Elston/Monticello intersection

# CAPS Report

by Pam Maremont

As of March 17 the 17th District has a new commander, Michael J. Mealer. There are tentative plans for Commander Mealer to attend the next CAPS meeting.

The following issues were covered from the last meeting:



- There is no new information about the homicide that happened on January 12 due to a lack of cooperation from the victim's family, so the investigation has stalled.
- The patrons of the Boem bar on Montrose Avenue continue to disturb the neighborhood at closing time. The police have been issuing parking tickets to cars parked illegally on residential streets and will monitor activity at the bar.
- Alderman Laurino is looking into placing a pod camera near the Admiral Theater on Lawrence Avenue to deter loitering. The pod cameras move every quarter and the new location is determined by both the district commander and the alderman.

New issues raised:

- An armed robbery took place near the corner of Belle Plaine and Harding, in the 4100 block. The victims were two women. The police responded, but the case has been suspended due to lack of information.
- On Wednesday, March 12, shots were fired near Berteau and Pulaski at approximately noon. An argument over drugs was determined to be the catalyst for the shooting. Police responded quickly and were able to follow the suspects on to the highway where they tossed the gun, which was recovered. The driver was eventually kicked out of the car and apprehended by the police. The shooter has been identified and detectives are currently working on how to charge him.
- Michael J. Mealer was appointed as the new commander of the 17th district. Commander Mealer has been with the Chicago Police Department for over 25 years, most recently as the first watch Commander of the 13th district. There are tentative plans for the commander to attend the next CAPS meeting in April.
- A town hall meeting of the 17th district took place on March 29 at Northside Prep High School. Residents were encouraged to attend for a chance to meet and talk with the new commander and the alderman. The meeting was also an opportunity for people to voice their concerns and learn more about what resources are available in the community.

Statistics by type of crime in the West Walker neighborhood:  
(February 18 – March 18, 2008)

Theft over \$300 .....	5	Domestic Battery .....	3
Drug Possession .....	4	Theft \$300 and under .....	2
Criminal Damage to property or vehicle .....	4	Burglary (unlawful entry).....	2
Assault (simple) .....	3	Armed Robbery with a Handgun .....	1
Automobile Theft .....	3	Aggravated Battery with a Dangerous Weapon .....	1

CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meetings for 2008 for our beat are held at the 17th District in the community Room, 4650 N. Pulaski. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. monthly on the 3rd Wednesday and typically last one hour. The next meeting is April 16.



4324 N. ELSTON AVENUE CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60641  
T 773.583.3400 F 773.583.5145

**Margaret Laurino**  
Alderman  
39th Ward

39th Ward Public Service Office  
4404 West Lawrence Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60630-2511  
Ward Office: (773) 736-5594  
Ward39@cityofchicago.org



City Hall, Room 203  
121 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
(312) 744-7242



## Volunteers Sought to Help with Homeless Advocacy Program

*By Kara Wagner Sherer, Hands To Help President*

We've all seen the homeless in the doorways and the panhandlers standing in traffic for change. Poverty is nationwide, but you can help attack it locally. A new advocacy approach to ending homelessness that does not require a burdensome time or financial commitment will be discussed at an informational meeting on April 15, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. The new approach helps guide the homeless and those at-risk through applying for assistance and job training in order to gain self-sufficiency.

Hands To Help Ministries is an interfaith service group comprised of several local churches and organizations. Knowledge in personal finance, the law and employment would be particularly helpful, but the most important requirement is the desire to help those in need.

Please consider attending the informational meeting on April 15 and learn how you can help local homeless and those at risk of losing their homes. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (773) 725-9026.

## Wine Tasting to Benefit the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Indulge your senses with an evening of fine wine and savory appetizers in a unique setting, filled with music and friends. A Wine Tasting benefit will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. to benefit the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. The event will be held in the Upstairs Party Loft at Lexa's Creative Floral Design, 4433 North Elston. Tickets for the event are \$40 per person.



With the support of local churches, schools, scouts, and civic organizations, the food pantry provides services to over 1200 individuals each month of the year. The goal of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry is to provide caring, consistent service by distributing available resources to those in need.

For more information, contact Jennifer at (773) 844-9900.

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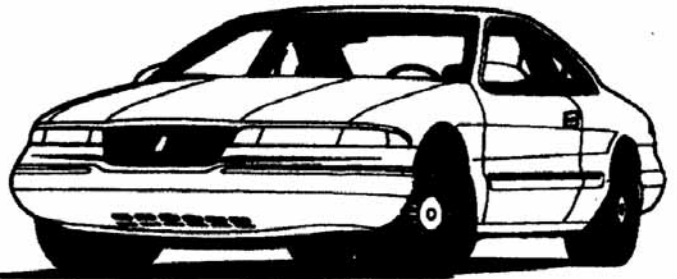
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