

WEST WALKER WIRE

APRIL 2011

www.westwalker.org

5th Annual West Walker Winter Social

by Dorie Westmeyer

Friends and Neighbors mixed it up at Remix Cafe!

Over 50 people enjoyed tasty appetizers and tantalizing cocktails at Remix Cafe. And attendees had a chance to win 4 tickets to Stars on Ice at Allstate Arena or a one night stay at Key Lime Cove waterpark (courtesy of NBC and Tara McKee). Special thanks to Cindi Webber for organizing another fabulous event!



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 16 • 5:00 p.m.

Rabbi Rachel S. Mivka Speaks
St. John's Episcopal, 3857 N. Kostner

April 17 • 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

St. Ed's Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast
Buckley Hall, 4343 W. Sunnyside

April 19 • 7:00 p.m.

WWCA General Meeting
Speaker Scott Goldstein, Teska Assoc.

April 20 • 7:00 p.m.

Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting
4650 N. Pulaski

May 1 • 12:30-4:30 p.m.

GIPNA/Independence Park Craft Fair
3945 N. Springfield

May 6 • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

St. Viator Art Zone
4140 W. Addison

May 6 • 7:00 p.m.

CCS Trivia Night,
IPLC Gym, 4057 N. Harding

May 7 • 9:00 a.m.

Disney II Used Book/Media Sale
3815 N. Kedvale

May 7 • 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

St. Edward's Deals on Wheels and
Flower Sale
Buckley Hall, 4343 W. Sunnyside

May 14 • 9:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Northwest Side Housing Center
"Celebrate Home" Event,
La Villa Restaurant, 3632 N. Pulaski

May 14 • 9:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WWCA Garage and Yard Sale!

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

Dear Neighbor,

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who attended the Winter Social on March 5th at Re-Mix Café. Over 40 neighbors, new and old turned out to enjoy a relaxed, casual get-together. More than half of those attending also took the opportunity to join or renew their WWCA memberships. The Winter Social has turned into one of our most popular events, and it was great to see so many people take the opportunity to come enjoy this event.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome **Lee Stein** as the new Editor of the Wire. Lee has contributed as a volunteer in the neighborhood for years, and we were truly excited when she stepped in to assume the Editor position. Many neighbors have said that the Wire is an important neighborhood resource, and it is only through the dedication of volunteers like our out-going Editor, **Anne Marie O'Kelly**, and Lee Stein that we can provide this publication.

Finally, spring is officially here and the warm weather can't be far behind. Spring is always a time of increased activity. As you spend more time outside, cleaning, planting or just enjoying the outdoors, keep an eye on you neighborhood. We have had a increase in traffic issues (speeding, failing to stop at stop signs) and crime. Please, call 311, 911 or the Alderman's office to report any issue of concern. Attend a CAPS meeting if you can. We can all do a little bit to make the neighborhood safer for all, especially the children and the frail.

Mike Webber
President, WWCA



Celebrate Home and Support the Community

The Northwest Side Housing Center is hosting "Celebrate Home" their first annual fundraising event

on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at LaVilla Restaurant from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Housing Center by providing the funds necessary to develop the programs and organizing campaigns that work to improve the quality of life on the northwest side of Chicago. Come celebrate with us! Dinner, raffle, entertainment and cash bar. Tickets for the event are \$35 each. Raffle tickets are \$10 each or 7 for \$50.

The Northwest Side Housing Center is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to build and strengthen our community by working with people for safe and affordable housing. We have been able to help meet the needs of the community with the help and financial support of people who believe in us. For more information call Northwest Side Housing Center at 773-283-3888 or visit us on our website www.nwshc.org.

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

2010-2011 OFFICERS

President Mike Webber
773.539.8346

Vice President Davor Engel
773.202.1010
dengel@studiode.com

Secretary Carol Barry
773.478.5696

Treasurer Jack Prikos

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER
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Jane Nagle

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

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Peg Klimek
Pat & Maura McKee
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Tricia Ramirez & Mike Hawlitzky
Melanie Reschke
Pat & Marianne Turk

EDITOR
Lee Samsami Stein

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.

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

WWCA General Meeting Minutes

From Tuesday, March 15th, 2011

Officers in attendance:

Mike Webber – President
Davor Engel – Vice President
Jack Prikos - Treasurer

General meeting commenced at 7:06 p.m.

The December general meeting Minutes were approved by voice vote.

The Treasurer's report was approved by voice vote.

General reminders:

An all 17th Dist Beats Town Hall Meeting will be held at 5040 N Pulaski on March 24, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Neighbors were encouraged to attend the Town Hall as well as CAPS meetings to express concerns. Neighbors were encouraged to contact Michelle Kaicener for Green concerns and green gardening advice. The 26th Annual Garage Sale will be held May 14, 2011 – applications are in the Wire. The next WWCA general meeting is April 19, 2011.

Mike Webber discussed the primary results of the community surveys. A discussion followed regarding possible improvement or changes within the WWCA which could address some of the concerns and weaknesses identified by the survey. Suggestions included posting narrative responses to the surveys on the WWCA website, A WWCA Facebook page, a WWCA Yahoo group and increased direct e-mail communication.

Davor Engel discussed the process the Zoning Committee followed in reaching a recommendation in favor of the residential development proposal at 4247-4259 N. Elston Avenue. A discussion followed regarding the project's merits and the need for further review and action by Alderman Laurino and the city Zoning Board. There was general agreement that there was a need to develop a mechanism to proactively attract and develop commercial and retail concerns to the community, although less consensus as to the nature of those concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Guest Speaker – Scott Goldstein of Teska Associates

Understanding and Implementing Neighborhood Change

With an ear toward the recent dialogue regarding the development proposed for 4247 N. Elston Ave, Scott Goldstein will be discussing fundamental concepts in community / neighborhood planning and development economics at the **WWCA General Meeting on Tuesday, April 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Latvian Community Center, 4146 N. Elston.**

Please visit www.teskaassociates.com for a comprehensive review of Teska's expertise including the "Washington Park Quality-of-Life Plan" redevelopment for the 2016 Chicago Olympic Bid.

Mr. Goldstein's experience and expertise is broad in this field and will be able to answer many questions that have been raised over our recent discussion with regard to the redevelopment process on Elston Ave. Please join us for what should be an informative and lively discussion.

WWCA Elections in May – Nominations Due

It's that time of year. Just like last year, our new meeting schedule moves elections from June up to May. That means that nominations will be accepted during the April 19, 2011 meeting. Anyone wishing to place a name into the hat for the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer or Secretary can do so at the April meeting. If you have any questions or if you wish to submit a nominee before the April meeting, please contact any of the current office holders, Mike Webber, Davor Engel or Carol Barry, for more information on officer duties or the election process.

Phone: 773-539-1200

Fax: 773-539-1482



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PAUL, JACK & JEAN PRIKOS

CAPS Report

by Jane Nagle, CAPS Coordinator

In lieu of regular beat meetings, the 17th District had its Annual Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, March 23rd. We were introduced to Commander Melissa A. Staples who has replaced Commander Michael Mealer as 17th District Commander. Sergeant Ken Pang, our new CAPS officer, provided an overview of reported crimes in 2009 and 2010 as well as trends for early 2011 versus early 2010. For both time periods, automobile thefts and thefts from automobiles have increased dramatically. Some information from the Chicago Police Department regarding prevention:

If you make it easy for someone to steal from your vehicle, chances are they will. So minimize the opportunity by practicing the following safety tips.

- Always lock your vehicle and take your keys.
- Never leave a spare set of keys in the vehicle such as in a magnetic box, above the visor or under the hood. Thieves ALWAYS check these areas.
- Always park in a well-lighted area.
- When parking your vehicle, always make sure the windows are tightly closed.
- Keep all valuables and packages out of sight, e.g. CDs and CD players, cellular phones, briefcases, computers, spare change, clothing, chargers, iPods and GPS devices and suction cups to secure the same.
- Do not place valuable items inside the trunk in plain view of the public. Instead, secure your items in the trunk prior to arriving at your destination.
- Anything of value left in your car attracts thieves.
- Remember, a thief will break your \$100 car window to steal your \$10 sunglasses.

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Recent graffiti and tagging is gradually being removed. With the warmer months approaching, there is a tendency to see more graffiti so please continue to report graffiti to: (1) 311 for graffiti removal (don't forget to ask for a tracking number so you can call back to get a status report if the removal is not completed) and (2) the 17th District (CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org) by sending a photo of the graffiti along with the address or location so the graffiti can be logged in its database.

CAPS meetings for our beat are currently held monthly at the 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski, in the Community Room. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month and typically last one hour. The next regularly scheduled meeting for Beat 1723 is Wednesday, April 20. As always, call 911 to report suspicious activity or individuals in your neighborhood and provide a detailed physical description of the individuals involved in any incident, including clothing, shoes and vehicle descriptions.

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."



39th Ward Report



I'm sure that many of you were aware that the Chicago Public Schools and the Board of Education proposed to place a new school, Audubon High School, into the existing Marshall Middle School building. After meetings and much public discourse, both pro and con, CPS withdrew their proposal for the new high school. According

to CPS, the design team looked at Marshall Middle School and came to the conclusion that the facility would not fit their needs. In addition, the lack of consensus among the community contributed to the decision to abandon the plans for a high school at Marshall. Bottom line – Marshall Middle School will remain in the facility, KidWatch will remain in the facility, and Audubon High School will not be moving into that location.

The city's Annual Spring Clean and Green is scheduled for Saturday, April 16. This marks the 22nd year that the city has sponsored the community clean-up. In past years, we've always had a good response from West Walker neighbors who pitch in to clean-up their streets,

alleys and blocks. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jonathan in my office at 773-736-5594. CNT Energy, a non-profit in Chicago that does energy efficiency programming, is partnering with People's Gas and the Chicagoland Natural Gas Savings Program to offer the Chicagoland Air Sealing Pilot Program, available to residential customers in buildings of 1-2 units until May 2011. The Chicagoland Natural Gas Savings Program is offering 85% rebates (capped at \$1,000) for Air Sealing and 75% rebates (capped at \$750) for Attic Insulation. In addition to the rebate, participants will receive free radon testing, a free Energy Audit focused on energy efficiency and safety, quality work from pre-approved contractors committed to energy efficiency, and follow-up testing to verify the home's improved performance. The program is open to homeowners with single family homes and two-flats. Applications must be received by May 31. For more information, visit <http://www.cntenergy.org/buildings/chicagoland-air-sealing-pilot>.

As always, please contact my office at 773-736-5594 or Ward39@cityofchicago.org with any questions.

Sincerely, Margaret Laurino Alderman, 39th Ward

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WWCA Members

Thanks for renewing or becoming members of WWCA! A list of those neighbors who have joined or renewed as of March 4th through April 4th appears below.

Roberta and Phil Bole	Rick Mosher and Alison True
Terry Culver	Marc and Noelle Niechaj-Shannon
Laura and Brian Durkin	Ellyn and Pat Nugent
Sandhy and David Ehle	Diane O'Callaghan
Laurie and Ed Gardner	Sherry and Larry Russon
Mariana Glusman and Doug Fraser	Amy and Rick Sobin
Anne Marie O'Kelley	Maureen and Paul White
Laura Ell and Dave Knickerbocker	MarySue and Mike Witchger
Mark and Helen Lira	

It's Membership Renewal Time!

WWCA MEMBERSHIP runs May 1 through April 30 annually. Your dues help fund a variety of items:

- Ten issues per year of the *West Walker Wire*, delivered to residences and businesses in West Walker, free of charge.
- The annual community garage sale.
- Area non-profit groups like the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, Independence Park, and Independence Library.
- Free e-mail updates on neighborhood events and area crime.
- Free special events, like the Halloween Party and Fall Festival and 4th of July celebration at Independence Park.
- The Art In My Back Yard artistic series.

Bring your 2011-2012 dues to our next WWCA meeting on April 19th or you can mail in the application below.

Parkway Project – April, 2011

Hi all,
I have a new project planned for this spring—Plantings on the Parkways!

West Walker Sustainability Group is now registered as a community organization with Greencorps, specifically for the Parkway Planting project, thanks to permission from Alderman Laurino, since we will be planting on public space.

I will be working on the 4300 block of Hamlin, installing planting beds and seeds, where neighbors are willing to pitch in, and help. Greencorps holds five plant giveaways every year—seeds, vegetables, annuals, perennials and bulbs free of charge to community organizations.

Neighbors will be assisting with money for materials, and time to help maintain and water the plantings. Jack Prikos, from Farmers Market Garden Center, has kindly offered more seeds, and a good deal on purchasing other materials such as pavers.

This is the first year of this project, and hopefully it will go well, so we can potentially expand to other blocks, if neighbors are interested and willing to help. Please contact me if you'd like to bring this project to your block!

Thanks, and Happy Spring!
Michelle

greenwestwalker@gmail.com / West Walker Sustainability Group
<http://westwalker.net>

Website of the Month: http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dae/provdrs/nat_res/svcs/greencorps_chicago.html

WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yearly Membership Dues: Effective May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012

Check one: FAMILY \$15 BUSINESS \$20 SENIOR \$5

NAME: _____
(Please print. Write your name as you would like it to appear in the *West Walker Wire*.)

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Please note your e-mail address if you would like to receive e-mail updates:

E-MAIL: _____

Please make your check payable to: WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Mail or drop off your application and dues to: Jack Prikos, 4238 N. Avers Ave., Chicago, IL 60618



News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Pantry Wine-Tasting Party Set for May 22

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry will hold a wine-tasting benefit from 4 to 6 p.m on Sunday, May 22nd at Las Tablas Colombian restaurant. The steakhouse is located at 4920 W. Irving Park Road, at Laporte Avenue, a half-block west of Cicero Avenue. The Pantry's last wine-tasting event was held in October 2009, and the board decided it was time to host another of the popular fundraisers.

"Our supporters have enjoyed the wine-tasting parties in the past, and this year's program at Las Tablas will provide an enjoyable atmosphere to sample a variety of wines and learn more about them while helping the Pantry raise much-needed funds," says John Psiharis, executive director.

The event is being held in the afternoon so guests can stay for dinner afterward if they choose. Reservations for the evening can be made by calling 773-202-0999.

Be a Bunny!

It's not too late to donate to the Pantry's program to provide its clients' children with Easter bags. We are collecting goodies (candy and small toys, plus plenty of Easter grass) for children in the age categories of under 2, 2 to 5 years and 6 to 8 years old. The distributions will take place on April 6, 13 and 20, and we can accept donations through April 18th at the Irving Park United Methodist Church at Grace and Keeler (Grace Street entrance). Financial donations can be sent by mail or through Google checkout at the Pantry's website (www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org). If you have any questions about donations, please contact the Pantry at info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

Drivers Needed: The Pantry is in great need of drivers for its homebound-delivery program, which delivers food to eligible clients on the morning of the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Volunteers need a valid driver's license and the ability to drive a small truck.

We are also looking for volunteers who can speak Spanish, Polish and Russian. Availability on Wednesday mornings would be ideal, but you can also help with translations via e-mail if necessary.

If you can help with either of these needs, please call Lee Stein at the Pantry on Wednesday morning at 773-283-6296 or e-mail volunteer@irvingparkfoodpantry.org.

Supplement Your Donation

Every contribution this month will be supplemented by funds from the Feinstein Challenge, a \$1-million fund operated by Alan Shawn Feinstein to aid hunger organizations nationwide. The amount we receive is based on the size of the donation, with food donations valued at \$1 per item/pound. It is not a strict matching fund, but it provides extra funding, usually several hundred dollars, and we appreciate your help in maximizing our contributions.

Visit us on Facebook!

As of mid-March, the Pantry's Facebook page had more than 155 friends! Join our page and stay up to date on events and messages from the Pantry for its neighbors.

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News and Events from Carlson Community Services



**Carlson
Community
Services**

Trivia Night May 6th

Put your knowledge of pop culture,

history, sports and Chicago trivia to the test at Carlson Community Services' Spring Trivia Night! Teams will compete for glory and a cash prize on Friday, May 6th at 7:00 p.m. at the Irving Park Lutheran Church gym, 4057 N. Harding Ave. Team tables of 8 will be sold for \$160 and singles can compete for \$25. Bring your own snacks! Beer, wine and soda will be available for sale.

All proceeds will benefit the Magic After-School Place (MAP), which provides area families with affordable after-school care.

For more information or to purchase a team table or single tickets, contact Helen Lira at helen@chilira.com, or 773-406-9821. Open to adults 21 and over. To learn more about Carlson, visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org.

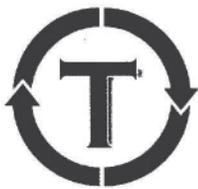
Three Brothers Garden Fundraiser a Success

Thanks to everyone who attended Carlson Community Services' third annual chili supper fundraiser for the Three Brothers Garden on March 20th. Over 200 diners enjoyed delicious chili and sides made by local chef Ed Gardner. Volunteers from the Three Brothers Garden put the evening

together, which in addition to the dinner featured a raffle, kids' craft room, a cake walk and neighbors reconnecting with neighbors after the long winter.

The Three Brothers Garden committee would like to thank the many volunteers and donors who helped make the event a success. Net proceeds of the event were approximately \$2,000, which will be used for the installation of an irrigation system in the garden. State Representative Deborah Mell contributed \$1,000 to the water project, and a \$3,000 grant from the Marx Foundation was secured by Alderman Margaret Laurino. Funds raised to bring water onto the site will make watering the garden more efficient in terms of volunteer labor and water use. Installation of the irrigation system is expected to be complete in time for the spring planting season.

Vegetables grown in the garden are donated to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. Since 2009, over 1,300 pounds of fresh vegetables have been distributed to pantry clients. For more information, or to volunteer in the garden, contact Liz Mills at lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org or 773.398.6766.



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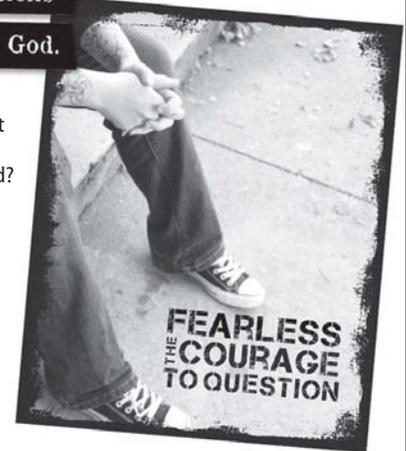
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You may be surprised to
find that asking questions
can bring you closer to God.

If God knows everything about me, why should I engage in conversation or prayer with God?

**Join us on your journey
through Lent**

Palm Sunday, April 17, 10 a.m.
Holy Thursday, April 21, 7 p.m.
Good Friday, April 22, 7 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 24, 10 a.m.



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10 A.M. (ENGLISH) - Vickie Hadaway, lead pastor
NOON (SPANISH) - Cecilia Obret, mission pastor
Michelle Stephens - children and youth minister
Chris Stephens - student pastor
Jonathan Braun - director of music

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Seanachai Theatre's Successful Year at the Irish-American Heritage Center

by Marlena Ascher



By the time you read this article, Seanachai Theatre will have ended its 2010-2011 season, its first full season in their new home at the Irish-American Heritage Center. It was quite a season!



It was a special honor to welcome the Irish Consul General, Martin Rouine, to Seanachai's board of directors. Mr. Rouine enthusiastically joined

the board after experiencing the quality of Seanachai productions first-hand. He was not alone in that opinion. All three of Seanachai's productions at the IAHC, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Weir*, and *That Was Then* have been recommended by the Joseph Jefferson Award committee for full consideration for Jeff Award nominations. The Jeff Awards are the Chicago equivalent of New York's Tony Awards.

In the fall and again in the spring, Seanachai offered a dinner-theatre option which received rave reviews from guests who enjoyed a gourmet meal with wine, coffee, and dessert; a pre-show presentation by an ensemble member who shared key points about the play and the playwright; the play itself; and a post-show discussion with the actors following the performance. The dinner-theatre night for *That Was Then* was especially fun since guests enjoyed the very foods eaten during the play by the actors – Caesar salad, olive tapenade, Coq au vin, fragrant rice, Arrabbiata meatballs, and for dessert – Castro's bombe. No matter how scary that sounds, Castro's bombe is a delicious dessert of vanilla ice cream with pineapple ginger sauce, topped by toasted walnuts.

In February, Seanachai partnered with the Irish-American Heritage Center, a number of local spa treatment providers, and local artists to present a Girls Night Out fundraiser event. It was a beautiful evening, inspiring a quantity of enthusiastic feedback from all who participated. The already-beautiful Fifth Province Pub was further transformed with fairy lights, tea candles, winter branches, and rich fabrics in reds, purples, silvers, and cream. \$25 admission

(fully deductible as a tax write-off) entitled guests to all of the food and drink they wished for as well as the opportunity to buy beautiful handmade goods from local artists and to sign up for manicures, pedicures, paraffin hand treatments, massages, reflexology, and Tarot Card reading. The food was mostly homemade and absolutely delectable! Homemade olive tapenade, lox/crème fraiche/capers, spinach-artichoke dip, cheese asparagus tartlets, quiche tartlets, an array of cheeses and fruits, raw vegetables and dip, homemade chocolate covered strawberries, homemade white and dark chocolate covered pretzels, brownies, Madelines, champagne punch, red and white wines, and Dove chocolate martinis.

Remember to put next season's plays on your 2011-2012 social events calendar. The choices for next year's plays have not yet been finalized, but they will open in the middle of September and in the middle of March. See you soon!



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LOTS OF HEART

Our school raised over \$7,000 for the American Heart Association in February and March, far

exceeding their goal of \$1,500 dollars in donations!

JAPANESE PRINTMAKING

In April, the continuation of the supplemental arts program provided courtesy of the Leo Burnett Co. will focus on Gyotaku for grades K-3 (Traditional Japanese Fish Printing) and Block Printing on rice paper for grades 4-7.

SCIENCE COMES ALIVE

In April, Eureka Discovers will make science come alive for grades K-4 students with their assembly titled "Ben Franklin and the Levitating Frog!"

St. Edward School

Pancake Breakfast!

The Boy Scouts at St. Edward will host a pancake breakfast on Sunday, April 17, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event will be held in the school gym, Buckley Hall, at 4343 W. Sunnyside Ave.

Deals on Wheels and Flower Sale

On Saturday, May 7, St. Edward Parent Organization will host its annual "Deals on Wheels & Flower Sale." The event will run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the school gym, Buckley Hall, at 4343 W. Sunnyside Ave. Stop on by and pick up a lovely flower basket arranged by Anne Roberts Garden, and check out the deals on used bikes, skates, wagons, and more. All proceeds will be donated to the Springfield Dominican Sisters who have supported St. Edward School for the past 100 years!

Board Meeting

The school board meeting will be held on April 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the school. All school parents and parishioners are welcome. For more information, call 773-736-9133.

St. Viator School

OPEN HOUSES

St. Viator's 4th-8th grade classrooms and computer lab will be open for viewing on Thursday, April 14th from 9:00-11:00 a.m. This is a great opportunity to take a long view and see what's happening in the upper grades.

Save the date for a special year-end open house on Friday, May 6th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The Art Zone Student Exhibit and Academic Fair will be showcased. For Open House information visit: www.stviatorchicago.org.

Summer Basketball Camp

Back by popular demand, the St. Viator Athletic Association will run two basketball camps this summer focusing on the development of basic skills, sportsmanship and teamwork. The St. Viator Bitty Basketball Camp is for boys and girls entering kindergarten through third grade. The second camp is available to all girls entering 4th-6th grade. Both camps are slated for mid-June and are open to children from any school. Details on these camps will be available in May. If you have questions, please contact Lisa Jones at lisa@lungrun.org or (773) 771-3178. For more information, visit: stviatorchicago.org and stviatorparish.org or call the office at 773-545-2173.

Disney II Magnet School

Used Book/Media Sale

Spring cleaning? The Disney II PTA is holding its 2nd Used Book/Media Sale on Saturday, May 7th, 9 a.m. at Disney II Magnet School. We appreciate donations of used (kids and/or adult) books and DVD/CDs. Drop off donations at the school at 3815 N. Kedvale during school hours (8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.) or contact Karen Steele at kpsds@sbcglobal.net. Thank you, and don't forget to shop on May 7th!

Facets Kids Film Camp

Congratulations to six Disney II students who won scholarships to the summer Facets Kids Film Camp. Our students will learn the intricacies of writing, acting out scripts and working with cameras and film.

After School Enrichment

The Disney II After School enrichment programs have been posted! This spring, students can choose to participate in track & field, wiffle ball, ARCC Dance classes, Tae Kwon Do, and Foreign Language classes in addition to Student Council, Newspaper Club, Drama Troupe, Battle of the Books, and Color Guard/Flag Team.

Arts Alive! Festival

On June 11th, the Disney II Educational Foundation is hosting the first ever "Arts Alive!" outdoor festival. This will be a celebration of the arts: live music (watch for showtimes of bands such as American English and the Funkadesi's), cooking demonstrations by famous

Chicago chefs, art displays, and of course...plenty of food, beer, pop, and ice cream to go around. The event will be held on the grounds of Disney II and immediate surrounding streets. Mark your calendars for what is sure to be a wonderful family event for the Old Irving Park Community and anyone else who loves the arts. Reference www.artsalivechicago.com for further details as they become available.

Park View Lutheran Church and School

If you are looking for a small, friendly neighborhood school for your children, please consider Park View Lutheran School. We are located at 3919 N. Monticello—just down the street from McDonald's. We have small class sizes – 8-12 students, and dedicated teachers. While volunteering in the library a few weeks ago, I was very impressed by the way the older students would help the younger students with their reading. The older student did not laugh if the reader did not know a word; he just helped him figure it out. That is how they learn in a small, loving environment.

Our School has Chapel Services every Wed at 9 AM, and everyone is welcome to join us. On Good Friday, we have a service at 11 AM. We hope your whole family can join us for Easter Breakfast on Sun. April 24, from 9:00 – 10:30 AM, and then our Festive Easter Eucharist Service will be at 11 AM. At the close of the service, all children are invited to join in the Egg Hunt outside, in front of the Church.

We also have Summer Camp – all summer long. Since it's small, we take many field trips around Chicago. For more information, please contact 773-267-0072 or visit us at our website: www.parkviewlutheran.org

News from Irving Park Lutheran Church

Magic Mushroom Enrollment is Open!

If you seek a wonderful summer program for your children, look no further than the Magic Mushroom Summer Program at Irving Park Lutheran Church! The program runs from July 5th to the 28th, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and is open to all children aged 3 to 12. Magic Mushroom is one of the few affordable, high-quality summer programs in the city, and it's entering its 36th year! Enroll before May 1st to save \$5 on registration fee! For more information, contact Lee Stein at leesstein@spacecushion.com or 773-267-0175. Also, visit www.iplc.org to download an enrollment form and brochure!

St. John's Episcopal News

Dangerous Religious Ideas

St. John's Speaker Series presents Rabbi Rachel S. Mikva on Saturday, April 16 at 5:00 p.m. to speak on "Dangerous Religious Ideas" in the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic religions. She will speak on concepts such as martyrdom, Sabbath, chosenness, free will and divine providence, reward and punishment, homeland, abomination, and religious law, considering their potentially constructive and destructive aspects. The hour long presentation will include time for questions and discussion. This event is free and open to the public.

Rachel S. Mikva is the Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman Chair of Jewish Studies at Chicago Theological Seminary. She served as a congregational rabbi for thirteen years before returning to academia. Dr. Mikva's research and teaching focus on interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in various times and places, exploring how the ideas both shape and reflect the societies in which they unfold. She is especially interested in the intersections of exegesis, culture and ethics.

St. John's Episcopal Church is located at 3857 N. Kostner Ave. in Chicago. Visit: www.stjohnschicago.com

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Take the step today— to find the healthy answer that works for you!

by *Vicci Rodgers Keutzer*

I'd been away from exercise for awhile. Life changes resulted in not finding or taking time for myself. But Joanie, the owner of the Avondale/Old Irving Park Curves®, didn't give up on me. I'd been a member, but hadn't been going. Gentle reminders eventually brought me back. When I returned recently, I was surprised by a Zumba® class that was in full swing. Women of all body types and ages were switching between very intense dance moves and working out on the machines around the circuit. The corner of Irving Park Road and Lawndale

was rocking. The energy was high. The ladies were welcoming. I was immediately glad I had returned.

I wanted to see another Zumba class, so I came back on a Saturday morning. Both doors were open to keep the air moving through the space. I was convinced that Diana, the instructor, was a professional dancer. . . imagine my surprise when I found out she was a lawyer and physical therapist who immigrated to the United States from Bulgaria. She has been teaching Zumba for the past year, but was a student for over five. Diana explained that she gained 50 pounds with her pregnancy and couldn't find anything that would shape her core after childbirth. Then she started Zumba. You should see her now! Listening to a couple of the other class participants, I heard comments like, "It goes by quick. It's fast, active, fun and challenges you." "I love the aerobics and my body does things it doesn't do during the day!" "You're always energized and you really sweat."

Jesus said,

The words which I have spoken to you are

SPIRIT and LIFE.

John 6:63

God has given us a great treasure; His speaking, recorded in physical form as the Bible.

Whether you choose a place like Curves, take yoga at Independence Park, walk with a friend, work out at the YMCA or at home. . . whatever you do, just take time for yourself and your health. It's amazing how supportive people can be. We've all been there and can help each other along the way.

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Help Make West Walker More Walkable!



Ever wish West Walker was more "walkable?" Here's your chance to help change that. West Walker Civic Association is hosting a neighborhood walk and scavenger hunt to raise awareness about the importance of our neighborhood's walkability. Walkable neighborhoods offer surprising benefits to our health, our environment, our communities and our world. Help plan this year's event, scavenger hunt and activities. Contact Carol Valentino-Barry at valbarry@sbcglobal.net or 773-428-0892.

Feel good about feeling better!



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**You can now pay your WWCA dues—
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(www.westwalker.org)!**



Legislative Update

State lawmakers have begun the process of negotiating and crafting a state budget. The passage of recent budgeting reforms by the General Assembly help ensure an end to business as usual when it comes to how the state spends tax dollars. The governor submitted a proposed budget that included increases in spending that exceeds our resources. With these new reforms in place, we cannot continue down the path of living beyond our means.

The General Assembly will no longer follow a budgeting process that takes the appropriations made to state agencies from last year and simply add more funds. These agencies will have to justify the need for all of their spending requests and learn how to do more with less.

Under the new budgeting process, the House Revenue Committee will be tasked with determining actual anticipated revenues that the state will be able to appropriate. As the Revenue Committee determines anticipated revenues, the House's appropriations committees are given a finite spending limit. The state will not be allowed to spend money that is not supported by existing sources.

Just like our families that have to live on a budget, the state must also start to live within its means. Through my work on the Elementary and Secondary Education Appropriations Committee and in my other duties as your state representative, I pledge to do everything I can to help pass a state budget that does more with less. I am committed to working with my colleagues in Springfield to get the state's finances back on the road toward fiscal solvency.

I invite you to subscribe to my newsletter or contact me with comments or questions on issues as they come before the legislature by emailing me at deb@debmell.org or calling my district office at 773-267-2880.

Deborah Mell, State Representative, 40th District



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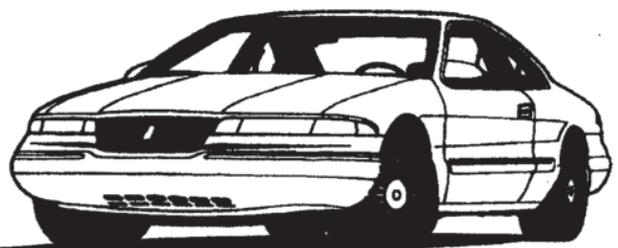
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- The Wire is published 10 times a year (September through June).
- ALL AD ARTWORK is due on the 20th of the month prior. High-resolution pdfs, tiffs, and jpgs (black-and-white) are preferred. Microsoft Word files and camera-ready "hard copy" versions also are acceptable.
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Gardeners: Resist the Urge!

by Maureen Taylor

After a long, cold, snowy winter like we've just had in Chicago, we gardeners are more than eager to get out and get to work clearing and cleaning, but I urge you to hold off a bit...for now anyway.

Winter and early spring in the garden is basically a series of freeze and thaw cycles. These cycles create tiny air spaces called "pores" in the soil which are essential for healthy plants. Soil is a living organism and as such needs oxygen to exist. Without adequate oxygen, the soil becomes waterlogged and roots of plants will rot.

If you dig or even walk on your beds too early when the soil is wet, you will do a lot of damage to your soil by eliminating these air spaces. If you must walk in your garden, it is recommended that you lay down a plank of wood and walk on that instead.

You should also resist the urge to clean up your beds too early. Even though we are all anxious to see what is starting to grow, it is better to wait a bit. Hopefully you have left the leaves on your flower beds last fall. These leaves help regulate the temperature of the soil. Removing this organic cover will expose tender shoots to our unpredictable spring weather. The old leaves will decompose on their own and give essential nutrients back into the soil.

As consistently warmer weather arrives you can start to remove the leaves to expose the crowns of the plants, but do not put the leaves in the trash can. Leave this material around the roots of the plants instead.

If you can live with the look of the decomposing leaves for a few extra weeks until the plant fully leafs out, your garden will thank you for it by being more productive!

Maureen Taylor is a Master Gardener and Landscape Designer and the owner of Taylor Made Landscape Design, 773-255-2789



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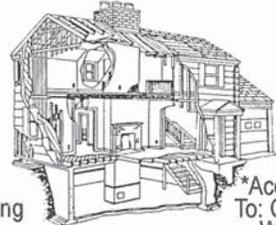
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West Walker Civic Association

26th Annual Neighborhood Garage and Yard Sale Saturday, May 14, 2011, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - rain or shine

All West Walker residents are invited to participate in our
26th Annual Garage and Yard Sale

Cost to participate is \$5 for WWCA members and \$10 for non-members.
Your \$5 or \$10 helps pay the cost of advertising and printing.

The sale is advertised in the following newspapers and online sites:
Chicago Tribune • Red Eye • Hoy • Reader • Reader On-Line • Craigslist

Signs are posted on the main perimeter streets.

3,000 maps indicating the location of each participating garage or yard
are distributed the week of the sale.

Under **current city ordinance**, every home having a garage or yard 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 and obtain the permits for all paid participants. **Your permit will be delivered to your address the Friday before the sale. (There will be NO confirmation given before that.)**

Return the form below to have your address listed as a participant in the sale, along with your application fee by May 8, 2011.

Or sign up on the WWCA website at <http://www.westwalker.org>.

For further information call Bob Crowley at 773.267.1921.

WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION GARAGE AND YARD SALE
Saturday, May 14, 2011

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____
E-MAIL: _____

- I am a member of the West Walker Civic Association. Enclosed is my **\$5** participation fee.
- I am **not now a member** of the West Walker Civic Association but want to join. Enclosed is my **\$20** participation fee. Please credit \$15 toward my WWCA dues for 2011-2012.
- I am **not** a member of the West Walker Civic Association. Enclosed is my **\$10** participation fee.

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