

# WESTWALKER ——WIRE——

**MAY 2008** 

www.westwalker.org

# May Meeting to Feature State of the 33rd Ward, Social Services

The May 20th West Walker general meeting will feature a report on the State of the 33rd Ward. Jaime Andrade, Assistant to Alderman Richard Mell will speak about what's new and of interest in the 33rd Ward. (Look for a report on the 39th Ward by Alderman Margaret Laurino at the June 17th meeting.)

In addition, Sandra Stumme, Executive Director of Metropolitan Family Services will talk about the work her agency does in our area to strengthen and stabilize families. Board member Kathy Howe will report on the work of the Old Irving Park Clinic in meeting the health care needs of the uninsured.

Question or concern in the 33rd Ward? Are you or someone you know in need of social services? Don't miss this informative meeting! Join us on May 20th at 7:30 p.m. at the Latvian Hall, 4146 N. Elston Ave.

#### Art In My Back Yard Opening A Hit!



On Friday, May 2nd, the Art in My Back Yard (AIMBY) artistic series kicked off with an art exhibit titled studios revealed. More than 150 art lovers gathered that evening to sip sangria and take in the work of the 22 artists exhibiting sculpture, ceramics, video, painting and drawing. The setting was a storefront space at 3955 W. Irving Park Rd., rented for the month of May by West Walker and the Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association. Under the direction of

West Walker artist Jackie Kazarian, the space was transformed from a drab office space into a bright, airy gallery.

Continued on page 6

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 20 • 7:30 p.m.

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

May 21 • 7:00 p.m.

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

Now through May 30

Art in My Back Yard exhibit Fri. & Sat. 2 - 6 p.m. / Sun. 12 - 4 p.m. 3955 W. Irving Park Rd.

May 31 ● 5:00 p.m. (doors open) Independence Park Talent Show Auditorium of John Murphy

Elementary School, Grace/Central Park

June 1 • 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Farmer's Market Independence Park

June 7 • 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Villa Neighborhood Garage Sale Bounded by Addison, Hamlin, Avondale and Harding

June 12 • 7:00 p.m.

Kids Dance presents, "Dancing Thru the Decades"

Portage Theatre, 4050 N. Milwaukee

June 13 • 5:00 p.m.

Gallery Opening
Tapestry Community - 3824 W. Irving
Park

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



# Dear Neighbor:

Congratulations to my dear neighbor and friend, **Margaret "Peg" Klimek** on being inducted into the City of Chicago's Senior Hall of Fame. As an active member of the West Walker Civic Association for over 45 years, I can't think of a more deserving recipient.

Thanks to the amazing talent of 22 area artists, the Art In My Back Yard studios revealed exhibition is a roaring success! To the many people who made the exhibit possible, and especially **Jackie Kazarian**, the artist who organized the exhibit, thank you. A complete list of donors and volunteers is on page 6.

I'm grateful to the Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association for partnering with us on this first AIMBY event. Thanks especially to GIPNA's **Lynda Olander, Pat Clark** and **David Dumo** for their counsel and graphic design assistance. From West Walker, **Johanna Zorn** and **Jackie Kazarian** provided the impetus and a lot of hard work!

Haven't had a chance to visit the gallery yet? The exhibition continues through May 30th at 3955 W. Irving Park Rd. See page 6 for hours.

Art in My Back Yard grew out of the Vision Statement's call to "create a vibrant cultural center to anchor the community." To that end, for the second year, the West Walker Civic Association participated in the City of Chicago's Creative Chicago Expo. As a neighborhood seeking artists, we were there to engage artists and arts organizations in conversation about West Walker and our desire to continue and grow our support of the arts. Thanks to **Johanna Zorn** and **Joyce Winer** for staffing West Walker's booth.

Nearly a dozen West Walker and Independence Park residents joined me on April 2nd at Sulzer Library to lobby the Chicago Public Library board of trustees for a new Independence branch library. We were assured by the board that the process in choosing a new location, when funding becomes available, will be open to community input. **Davor Engel** of the Vision Committee has sent Commissioner Dempsey a copy of our Vision Statement, along with the newly completed survey of Elston Ave., to demonstrate West Walker's commitment to securing a new library. If you are interested in working with Davor and **Roberta Bole** on this important issue, please contact me.

I'd like to welcome **Mark Pascale** to the WWCA board of directors. Thanks for agreeing to serve, Mark! A nominating committee headed by **Jane Nagle** is putting together a slate of officers to be put to a vote at the June meeting. We are in need of nominees! See page 5 for details.

See you at the garage sale and studios revealed!

Liz Mills, President

### 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

President Liz Mills

267-9298

Vice-President Evan Price

267-1740

Secretary Mike Webber

539-8346

Treasurer Bob Begeske

267-5942

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

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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 see our Advertising Rates, Page 3.



#### WWCA - General Meeting Minutes - April 15, 2008 - 36 present

WWCA President Liz Mills opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

The first order of business was a presentation by historian and Old Irving Park resident Bill Tyre. Bill presented an oral and visual history of West Walker and the surrounding area stretching back over 100 years. Back then, West Walker was Country Living! Some houses have stood more than 100 years, and we could see them as they were originally situated. We learned about toll booths at every community border, the privately built Independence Park and saw the community grow and change. It was a great show to watch.

The March General Meeting Minutes were approved by voice vote.

Treasurer Bob Begeske reported a general account balance of \$1605.39, which was approved by voice vote.

Liz Mills reported on the upcoming Art in My Backyard project, "Studios Revealed," from May 2 through May 30. Over 20 local artists are participating in a gallery showing at 3955 West Irving Park Road. Please come and enjoy and support your neighborhood artists.

West Walker also recently participated at the Chicago Creative Expo, which is organized by the City to match neighborhoods with various artistic and creative people and organizations. Thanks to Johanna Zorn and Joyce Winer for staffing this event.

Attendees are 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.

Michael Webber reported that the Zoning Committee met with a developer who has come forward with a new proposal for the development of the property at 4247 N. Elston Ave. The Committee has responded to the proposal and suggested modifications to the proposal. The Committee is waiting a response and will continue to evaluate further proposals and report updates at future WWCA meetings.

The Stripp Joynt, located at 4170 North Elston, is continuing to raise concerns with neighbors. A special meeting has been set for April 23 in cooperation with Alderman Laurino's office and the Department of Environment to address concerns.

**Business Name:** 

Save The Date: The Annual PEBA Golf Outing will be held June 18, 2008. Details to follow.

A volunteer is being sought to act as the WWCA CAPS Coordinator for alley addresses. The 17th Police District is initiating a project to place addresses on the alley-side residences in the district. This is required by City Code and assists police, firefighters and city workers in quickly and accurately identifying property. The numbers are reflective, three inches high, with a stick-on adhesive, and come at no cost to residents.

The Chicago Public School Student Internship Program is seeking volunteers for students. If your business could accommodate a part-time student intern for six weeks this summer, please contact Liz Mills.

Several representatives from West Walker attended and spoke at the April 12 hearing on plans for a new Chicago Public Library branch. West Walker would like a new facility close to the neighborhood to replace the current Independence Branch. Neighbors are encouraged to write a letter in support of a new branch. Contact any Board member for details.

The meeting was adjourned by President, Liz Mills.

# West Walker Wire Advertising Rates Business Card - \$15/month #/months Total \$ (Must purchase a 3-month minimum)

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_	Full Page - \$100/month	#/months	Total \$	

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Send all ad copy and payments (and any ad questions) to: Laurie Gardner, 4039 N. Harding Ave., Chicago, 60618 ferrislaura@sbcglobal.net 773-866-0665



#### 2008 Farmers Markets Set

For those of you awaiting your fresh foods, handmade goods, and locally roasted coffee – the time to stock up is almost here! GIPNA's popular Farmers Market is set to return to Independence Park. The markets will be held the first and third Sundays from June through October 5th and are open 8:00 a.m. to noon. Official dates are as follows:

- June 1 and June 15
- July 6 and July 20
- August 3 and August 17
- September 7 and September 21
- October 5

Vendors returning to the market this season include KC Goodies, Delightful Pastries, Stivers Gourmet Coffee, American Cheese Co., Tamales by Elena, M&D Farms, Fulton Street Baking Co., AJ Plapp Family Organics, the Peanut Tree, Ark Candle Co., and West Walker Honey.

New vendors will include the Farmers Market Garden Center and Zota Soda.

### **Local Recital Explores Styles of Music and Dance**

Kids Dance will present "Dancing Thru the Decades," a recital inspired by the various styles of music and dance from the '40s to the 2000s. The performance will be held at the Portage Theatre, 4050 N. Milwaukee on June 12 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the performance are \$1.00. For more information, contact Kids Dance at (773) 777-5477 or visit www.kidsdancechicago.com.

# Great Prices, Great Finds Available at Villa Garage Sale

In this time of economic uncertainty, stretch your dollar at the Annual Villa Garage Sale to be held Saturday, June 7, 2008 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. The Villa is the neighborhood bounded by Addison, Hamlin, Avondale and Harding just east of Old Irving. The Garage Sale has been a Villa tradition for many years and usually more than 25 families participate as sellers. The items for sale can run the gamut from furniture to clothing to quirky one-of-a-kind treasures. Shop early, buy often at this neighborhood outdoor summertime bonanza. There is something for everyone.





#### **WWCA Officer Responsibilities**

If you've ever wondered what exactly your West Walker Civic Association officers do, here's a brief description gleaned from the WWCA constitution and by-laws. Nominations for the officer positions will be presented at the May meeting and voted on in June. If you're interested in being nominated, or would like to nominate someone else, contact Nominating Committee Chair Jane Nagle at 588-1926.

The President presides at all meetings of the association and executive board, and casts a deciding vote in case of a tie. The officer also appoints the Nominating Committee and the chairs of other committees, other than those headed by the Past President and by current officers.

The Vice President assists the president in performing those duties. In the president's absence, the vicepresident presides at meetings and fulfills the president's other responsibilities.

The Secretary keeps minutes of association meetings, maintains a record of WWCA business, and conducts other WWCA correspondence as directed by the association. The office is also technically responsible for notifying members of WWCA meetings.

The Treasurer keeps accurate membership and auditable financial records. He or she disburses money according to spending limits approved by the Executive Board.

### **Hunger Walk to Support Food Pantry on June 14th**

Staff and volunteers of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry and more than 4,000 others will join the march against hunger on Saturday, June 14, at Montrose Harbor. The 23rd Annual Hunger Walk directly benefits participating food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters that are member agencies of the Greater Chicago Food Depository, including The Irving Park Community Food Pantry.

This is a major fund-raiser enabling the Pantry to help people in our neighborhood. The Pantry is asking that people in our area participate in the walk on the Pantry's behalf. Pledge forms are available by calling 773-283-6296 Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or by e-mailing at irvpkfoodpantry@aol.com.

#### **Rain Barrels and Blue Carts**

I'd like to mention two programs going on in our neighborhood at the moment, to help us go green in West Walker!

#### Blue Recycle Carts: How Can You Help?

- Petition: Sign a 39th Ward Blue Cart petition at one of the following locations: Alderman Laurino's Office, 4404 W. Lawrence
  - Independence Park- 3945 N. Springfield,
- 2. E-mail: E-mail Alderman Laurino asking for the Blue Cart Program to be rolled out in the 39th Ward. Send it to: ward39@cityofchicago.org
- 3. Online: Sign online petition at: www.sauganash. org/bluecart\_petition.htm
- 4. Write: Send or fax a letter to: Mayor Richard M. Daley City Hall 121 N. LaSalle St, Room 507 Chicago, IL 60602 fax (312)744-8045

Rain Barrel Sale, Saturday, May 31st, 10am – 2pm Location: Crafty Beaver Parking Lot, 3850 W Montrose, Chicago, IL 60618

Rain Barrels will be available for sale at \$40.00 each. There will be a limited quantity, so first-come, first-served. One per household. Come early!

We will have expertise on hand to give advice on installation, although each barrel comes with printed instructions. "A Good Handyman" has offered their services to help with installations.

To ensure you don't miss the opportunity to get a Rain Barrel, you may pre-order by sending me an email at mkaicener@earthlink.net. I will reserve a rain barrel for you on receipt of your check. You do need to show you are a Chicago resident.

Checks may be made out to "City of Chicago," and dropped off or mailed to my address, before May 25th:

Michelle Kaicener 4308 N Hamlin Ave, Chicago, IL 60618

Thanks to Betsy & John Minor, Brent Carter and Robert Rostkowski for volunteering to help. Anyone else interested in helping on the day, please drop me an email.

Thanks, Michelle Kaicener - mkaicener@earthlink.net

### WEST WALKER

#### Art In My Back Yard

Continued from page 1

The gallery will be open Fridays and Saturdays from 2:00 – 6:00 and Sundays from 12:00 – 4:00 through May 30th. Stop by, chat with the artists, and see what your neighbors' studios have revealed!

Thanks to the following organizations and individuals for their financial support or in-kind donation.

- Irving Park Carlson Ministries
- Precision Plating Company
- Debra Mell
- State Senator Iris Martinez
- 39th Ward Alderman Margaret Laurino
- The Legend Group
- · The Red Lion Inn
- · The Church in Chicago

Thanks to the following for their generous contribution of time to the creation of the gallery!

- Susan Barton
- Pat Clark
- David Dumo
- Patrick Duncan
- Lorna Fillipini
- Fletcher Hayes
- Chris Iverson
- Jackie Kazarian
- Kim Laurel

- Maryann Miceli
- Caroline Mills
- Liz Mills
- Chris Novak
- Lynda & Tim Olander
- Cvd Smillie
- Eric & Johanna Zorn



ABOVE: Lynda Olander, President GIPNA, Jackie Kazarian, Exhibit Organizer, Liz Mills, President WWCA, Johanna Zorn, Vision Committee Chair. Lynda, Liz & Johanna present Jackie with a bouquet to thank her for organizing the event.

TOP LEFT: Tim Burke's whimsical sculptures sculptures, seem to greet visitors entering the exhibit.

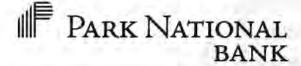
BOTTOM LEFT: A large turnout indicates great support for AIMBY events going forward





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Friday, May 30, 2008

6:00-9:00 P.M.

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DANCE

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MEAT LOAF

Bake Off

Beverages Extra

(Beer+Cocktails+Soda Pop+Water)

Ice Cream Sundae Bar Extra

#### Menu:

- Meat Loaf
- Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
- Green Bean Casserole

S

Silent Auction Limbo Contest

Donation:

Adults

\$10 - In Advance

\$12 - At the Door

Children (5-12 Years)

\$5 - In Advance

\$6 - At the Door

Children under 5 years of age are FREE!

Children's Meal includes: Veggies & Dip

NO REFUNDS

3919 North Monticello+Chicago, IL 60618

Matching Funds are available through Thrivent Financial For Lutherans



CAPS Report by Margaret McIntyre

Updates were given on issues brought up at the last month's CAPS meeting.

- There is no new information about the homicide that occurred on January 12 due to lack of cooperation from the victim's family. The investigation continues to be stalled.
- In the armed robbery that took place near the corner of Belle Plaine and Harding, in the 4100 block, two females victims in their late 20s have identified the assailants as two Hispanic males in their early 20s. One was dressed in a black hoodie, black pants and was carrying a gun. The other was also dressed in black. The



case is still open and the officers are looking for more information. If you have more information, please contact the police department.

#### New issues raised:

- There was a report of homeless people living in a vacant building at 4254 North Central Park. The Police investigated and reported an open side door. But found no one living there.
- Another report of homeless people living at a vacant building at 4033 North Central Park was given by a citizen. Officers indicated they would investigate.
- A report of teenagers kicking in windows, walking on garages and throwing garbage in a yard, and in the alley between the 4300 block of Springfield and Avers. Officers indicated they would visit the teens' home.

Statistics by type of crime in the West Walker neighborhood March 19-April 15, 2008:

Drug Possession	5	Theft under \$300	2
		Battery (aggravated)	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Burglary (forcible entry)	
l ·		Burglary (unlawful entry)	
1 , , ,		Robbery (strongarm)	
		Assault (simple)	
Theft (from building)		· • •	

CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meetings 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 May 21. More information about CAPS is available at www.cityofchicago.org. Join the CAPS team of police officers, residents and City Departments working together for a safer Chicago.



Dorsi Thillens Finnegan

President

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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





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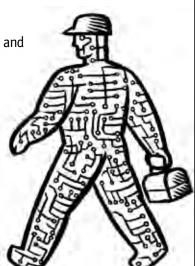




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# Office Report: 39th Ward

Mark your calendars! On **Monday, June 23rd** the City Clerk's office will be selling **City Vehicle Stickers** and **Residential Zone Parking Stickers** at my public service office. The stickers will be sold from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The City Clerk's Office requests that everyone bring the following information so that the line moves along quickly and smoothly: your phone number, drivers license, and license plate number. They will now be accepting credit cards.



In conjunction with City Sticker Day on **Monday, June 23rd**, we have invited **Secure Eco Shred** to be here at my public service office from **4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** They will securely shred all of your documents while you watch (limit of 2 bags). This is a free shredding service, so bring your old tax returns, insurance documents, bank statements, etc.

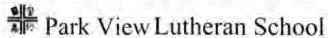
The City of Chicago is once again offering Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFL) to city residents. We have CFL bulbs available at my public service office. These CFL bulbs are the equivalent of 60-watt incandescent bulbs, and are free for residents of the 39th Ward (while supplies last).

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.

Margaret Laurino - Alderman, 39th Ward







3919 North Monticello • Chicago • 773~267~0072

Open House Schedule

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

### Park View School offers families programs for 3- and 4-year olds through 8th grade. Providing:

- · A creative and nurturing learning environment
- · Excellent academics in a Christian atmosphere
- · Recognition, support, and celebration of individual talents
- Small class size
- · A place where children are more than a test score

- One-on-one attention
- · Performance arts instruction
- · Parent involvement encouraged
- · Before and after-school care

#### Please call for more information!

3919 North Monticello • Chicago • 773~267~0072

Just south of the Irving/Elston/Monticello intersection



#### **News from Chicago International Irving Park**

Chicago International Irving Park, located at 3820 N. Spaulding, has opened its doors. The eleventh campus in the Chicago International Network, CICS – Irving Park serves 216 children in kindergarten through 4th grade. Reflective of the amazing diversity that is Chicago, the students hail from the north, south, and west sides of the city and represent the full spectrum in regards to race, ethnicity and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The school will add a grade each year to grow to full enrollment as a K-8 campus, serving approximately 500 students.

The mission of CICS- Irving Park is to educate and nurture our children by fostering a safe and positive environment that is conducive of all children receiving a high quality college preparatory education. Each child will develop the confidence and academic skills to grow academically, socially, intellectually and morally into Life-Long Learners. The pioneering spirit in the teachers, students and families has brought the Irving Park mission to life.

Academic rigor coupled with the power of diversity make CICS-Irving Park a gem amongst the charter, public and private schools. Data-driven decision making is the key to promoting high academic achievement. The teachers are provided with training and resources to effectively use assessments to drive their instruction. In kindergarten through 2nd grade DIBELS is used to measure growth. NWEA assessments are used to guide individualized instruction in the 3rd and 4th grades. This system fosters a real culture of collaboration among the teachers at CICS- Irving Park.

At CICS-Irving Park parents have been an integral part of the school from the very beginning. Prior to the school's opening, a parent launch committee assisted with aspects of development and start-up. Since its opening in August, the school has continued to enjoy significant parental involvement. And, the administration empowered parents by instituting an Open Door Policy. The school's director, Amy Torres, hosts a monthly Parent Café, an informal forum for parents to discuss questions, concerns and ideas with her. "It was extremely important to my staff and I to create a school environment that was welcoming to parents," said Ms. Torres. "In only a few short months, our parents have demonstrated a clear commitment to building a strong and supportive school culture at Irving Park."

CICS-Irving Park is currently enrolling for the 2008-2009 school year in kindergarten through 5th grades. Come tour CICS-Irving Park and sit with director, Amy Torres. Please contact Ms. Torres at atorres@victoryschools. com or 773.433.5000 for more information.

### Chicago International Irving Park

3820 N. Spaulding Avenue

### K-8 Elementary Campus

Chicago International elementary campuses are characterized by:

- Full-day kindergarten
- Spanish language instruction beginning in kindergarten
- Highly qualified teachers
- Involved parents

- Community support
- Organized and structured learning environments
- Advanced coursework from local universities

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Norridge Branch 7040 W Forest Preserve Dr Norridge IL 60706

Park Ridge Branch (Main St) 104 S Main St Park Ridge IL 60068

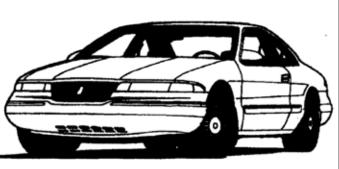
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