



WEST WALKER WIRE

DECEMBER 2015

www.westwalker.org

Celebrate the Season and Support Hands to Help Ministries!

On December 14th, neighbors from throughout the Irving and Portage Park communities will join together to celebrate the holidays and support their neighbors in need. Many will travel throughout the community to carol and raise essential funds for Hands to Help Ministries.

Hand to Help provides resources to help neighbors maintain housing as well as offers resources to help homeless individuals find housing. Each year the organization provides services to about one hundred individuals in need. Individuals like Sally and her son. Sally's son attends a neighborhood high school and until recently lived with Sally in her van. Hands to Help provided Sally, her son, and Sally's mom with counseling services allowing the teen to move out of the van and live with his grandmother in the community. The social worker continues to work with the family to strengthen the avenues of communication between family members. Additionally, Hands to Help's Outreach Worker continues to work with Sally to help her find employment and housing.

Hands to Help invites the community to join us. Please consider caroling with your neighbors or inviting carolers to come to your home by emailing hthexecdiretor@gmail.com. Hands to Help also appreciates your donations. Please visit: handstohelpministries.org/ways-help/donate/ today!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mon., Dec. 14 • 6:30 - 9 pm

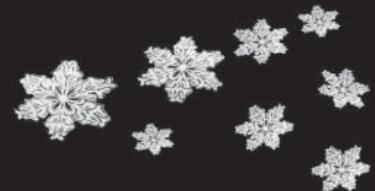
Hands to Help Caroling Fundraiser
Meet at Irving Park Baptist Church
4401 W. Irving Park Rd.

Wed., Dec. 16 • 7:30 pm

CAPS Meeting Beats 1722 & 1723
4650 N Pulaski, Community Room

Wed., Jan. 20 • 7:30 pm

CAPS Meeting Beats 1722 & 1723
4650 N Pulaski, Community Room



Save the Date!

for the

West Walker Winter Social

Saturday, February 27th, 2016

Details to follow!

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

Dear Neighbor,

IT HAS BEEN QUITE A YEAR here in West Walker and our surrounding communities. The increase in gang-related activity, robberies and other crimes was a great cause for concern. However, the community response was immediate, robust, and ongoing. Remember, if you see something suspicious, call 911 and your neighbors. Also, please plan to attend our next CAPS meetings on December 16, 2015 and January 20, 2016.

The concerns over airplane noise has also been in the news and many of our elected representatives as well as the FAiR organization have joined the fight to reduce noise. It will be a long process, but we will hopefully see some incremental improvements in the future.

I wish everyone a blessed Holiday season and hopes for a wonderful New Year.

Mike Webber, President, Pro Tem
West Walker Civic Association

New Policy Regarding Vehicle Registration Email Notices

Due to the lack of a state budget, the Secretary of State's office is suspending the mailing of vehicle registration renewal reminder notices. By suspending this service, which will save approximately \$450,000 per month, the office will be able to prolong the ability to mail vehicle registration renewal stickers, titles and license plates to vehicle owners for a few months longer before the postage account is depleted. Vehicle owners are encouraged to be mindful of their vehicle registration status. Motorists can sign up to receive reminder notices electronically by email by visiting www.cyberdriveillinois.com. You will need your registration ID and pin (located on your Illinois Registration Identification Card).

New Rules for Recycling

Starting January 1st, recycleables must be placed **loose** in blue carts.

"Everyone wants to do their part to help protect the environment, but when you put the wrong items in the blue cart - like a plastic bag - you contaminate not only your cart but a whole stream of otherwise useful materials," Streets & San commissioner Charles Williams said.

Plastic bags damage equipment at sorting facilities and also keep workers from seeing whether other non-recyclables - like pizza boxes or Styrofoam - have been placed in the cart. Streets & San incurs additional costs when non-recyclables have to be hauled from a sorting facility to a landfill.

Because so many people remain confused about what can and can't be recycled, Streets & San is preparing to debut a new website - Recycle by City Chicago - that will clear up misconceptions and provide a better visual representation of how to recycle correctly.

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 over 100 years of service
to the West Walker Community**

2014-2015 OFFICERS

President Pro Tem Mike Webber
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Treasurer Sue Gregoire

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Dorie Westmeyer

CAPS COORDINATOR

Liz Mills

Send crime concerns to Ed Gardner
at westwalkercrimealerts@gmail.com

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Max & Charlie Webber
Charlie Westmeyer

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*

Fifth District Participates in Congressional App Challenge

U.S. Representative Mike Quigley (IL-05) announced that Illinois' Fifth District will be participating in the second annual Congressional App Challenge (CAC), a congressional initiative to improve student engagement in coding and computer science.

High school students will create and submit their own original "apps" to be judged by panels of local judges. Submission deadline is January 15, 2016. Members of Congress will announce the winners on February 22, 2016. Winners will be honored by their Member of Congress and have their apps featured on a display in the Capitol building.

The CAC was created because Congress recognized that STEM skills are essential for economic growth and innovation, and that the U.S. has been falling behind on these fronts. STEM occupations are projected to grow by 17 percent between 2008 and 2018, compared to 9.8 percent growth for non-STEM occupations. According to some estimates, the U.S. may be short as many as three million high-skilled workers by 2018. To maintain American competitiveness, it's crucial that the United States invests in our youth now, and helps them acquire these necessary STEM-based skills. The CAC highlights and encourages students to pursue those skills.

In its first year, the CAC received submissions from students in 84 districts. This year, the Challenge is striving to double that number. Recognizing the racial, gendered, and other disparities in the tech sector, the CAC will also focus on inclusivity and make the Challenge as accessible as possible to people from all backgrounds.

The Internet Education Foundation will be serving as the operational "sponsor" of the CAC. For further information about the Congressional App Challenge, please visit www.congressionalappchallenge.us/.

In 2014, Rep. Quigley presented Trushitha Narla as the winner of the Congressional App Challenge for Illinois' Fifth Congressional District with her app, Sign It! Her app translates numbers in sign language to a text format using leap motion technology that captures data from the user's finger motions.

REAL ESTATE NEWS



By Dorie Westmeyer
Realtor®, MBA, ADPR

Your Neighborhood Realtor!

8 Ways to Super Size a Small Kitchen

The holidays are here which means more people in your kitchen. Here are some tips to make your kitchen look and feel bigger.

1. **Let the light in.** Keep your window treatments simple or eliminate them. Hang glass pendent lighting to keep sight lines open in the room.
2. **Go with light colors** and keep the walls, cabinets and appliances in the same color family.
3. **Declutter** the countertops. Hang utensils. Put knives on a magnetic strip. Hang storage racks on the inside of cabinet doors.
4. **Use open or glass shelving** to give the illusion of more space. Replace cabinet doors with glass front doors.
5. **Paint** your top cabinets a **light color** and a slightly darker color for the bottom. Paint the walls the same color as the top cabinets.
6. **Choose small furniture** – petite island, slim chairs, open back chairs... Use a rolling cart when you need more counter space.
7. **Use geometric patterns** on the floor tile to elongate the room. Or add a patterned runner for the same effect.
8. **Think shiny and reflective.** Shiny appliances (stainless or white), glass tiles...

Sources: *Realtor.com, Houzz*

If you have a real estate question, or are thinking of buying or selling, **please call me for a free consultation.** I've lived here for 20 years and I love our neighborhood! **Call Dorie, your Neighborhood Realtor 847-989-4870.**

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CAPS Report

Beat 1722 & 1723 CAPS Meeting November 18, 2015

Present: Beat facilitators Martha Hack & Carla Elliott, 2 Beat officers, CAPS Officer Maryjane Parks, Representatives from the offices of Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35) and Ald. Margaret Laurino (39).

Officer Parks reported that a minor residing in the 4000 block of Hamlin was placed on "intense supervision" at his November 10th court date. In addition, he is required to perform community service hours. He is no longer on home confinement.

At 1:05 a.m. on November 10th, a male victim exited his vehicle behind his residence on the 4100 Block of Elston. Two subjects approached the victim from behind and pointed a handgun into his back, forced the victim back into his own vehicle and drove away with the victim. This was observed through the window of the residence, by the victim's wife who called 9-1-1. The offenders drove around with the victim for an hour and used his Debit Card at an ATM. The victim was released at the Citibank

at Devon/California, which is where the offenders used the ATM Debit Card. The victim was not injured.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- › Stay Alert! Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- › Stranger – Danger, Be careful who you walk past and who follows you on foot or in a vehicle.
- › When driving home plan your route in advance and vary your route whenever possible. When exiting your vehicle be aware of any suspicious persons.
- › At night avoid walking alone, stay in lighted areas.
- › Trust your instincts. IF you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave right away and get help if necessary.
- › Call 911 for anything suspicious. Note description flight and vehicle, if any.

Thank you to the many West Walker residents who called to report graffiti that appeared November 27th on the wall of Alfa Restaurant Supply facing Berneau at Springfield. And thanks to Alderman Laurino's office and Graffiti Blasters for seeing to its prompt removal. The 17th District tactical officers were sent photos of the graffiti. Multiple calls work!

continued on page 9

SOLD!



4253 W. Cullom

"I lived in my home for 19 years and the decision to sell and move was bittersweet. Working with Dorie made things so much easier. From my first meeting with Dorie I was impressed with her professionalism & knowledge. She researched homes & had a great recommendation for pricing and a sound marketing strategy. She was easy to contact, easy to talk to, was supportive throughout the entire process and worked tirelessly to find a buyer who would love and appreciate the home as I did. I would strongly recommend Dorie Westmeyer to anyone interested in selling their home."

— Jennifer Hanna

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Your Neighborhood Realtor



39th Ward Report



The magical atmosphere of the Christkindlmarket Chicago has returned to Daley Plaza for its eighteenth year and will remain open until December 24, when it will close at 4 p.m. This European holiday village market of wooden huts and twinkling lights that harkens back to the traditional holiday market in

Nuremberg, Germany, is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. Admission is free! For more information, please visit the Christkindlmarket website at www.christkindlmarket.com.

The city's 102nd Christmas Tree begins a new tradition this holiday season in Millennium Park near the intersection of Michigan Ave. and Washington Street.

Also in Millennium Park, the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink opened on November 13 and remains open until March 6, 2016, weather permitting. Located on Michigan Avenue between Washington and Madison Streets, the rink is free and open to the public, and skate rental is only \$12.

With winter comes snow, and many people rely on walking and transit as their primary way to get around. Without a wide, clear path through snow and ice, it is especially difficult for people with disabilities, seniors and children to walk safely. Please remember that it is the responsibility of homeowners and occupants to remove snow and ice from the sidewalks according to the Municipal Code of Chicago.

On December 1, at 3:00 a.m. the City of Chicago activated the Winter Overnight Parking Restrictions for the most critical arterial streets between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. This seasonal parking restriction is in effect until April 1, whether or not there is snow on the ground.

The holiday season brings out the best in people and reminds us of our blessings. Best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful holiday season. My staff and I look forward to working together in the New Year. Sincerely, Margaret Laurino Alderman, 39th Ward

If you have any questions, please contact my 39th Ward Office at 773.736.5594 or Ward39@cityofchicago.org.

Sincerely, Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward

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News and Events from Carlson Community Services



Carlson Community Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit connecting

the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service.

Three Brothers Garden Grows 828 lbs. of Vegetables for Food Pantry

Three Brothers Garden closed the 2015 growing season with a whopping yield of 828 lbs. of vegetables. Now in its seventh year of operation, the garden is a partnership between Carlson Community Services and Irving Park Lutheran Church. Vegetables grown in Three Brothers Garden are distributed to clients of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. This past season we grew radishes, lettuces, kale, Swiss chard, carrots, peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, beets, herbs and green beans. In planning what to grow, the volunteer committee that oversees the garden considers nutritional value and ease of preparation for food pantry clients. Since 2009, over 5,500 lbs. of vegetables have been grown for the Food Pantry.

Volunteers began working in the garden in mid-April and gardened through early November. Over 275 volunteer hours were logged, including harvesting, planting, clean-up and watering. Between 8 and 10 volunteers participated each week in the Tuesday night harvests. Regular volunteers included Melanie Reschke, Martha Sanders, Judy Madsen, Darcie Wadycki, Rebecca and Elmer Haneberg, Ellen and Ron Olech, Ruth Olech, Kirsten Gettings and Erin Bouman. During the month of July, five students from Schurz High School's BuildOn program participated in the harvests. Volunteers were led by college intern Alexandra Madsen. Alex oversaw the weekly harvests, delivered vegetables to the food pantry and tracked the number of hours volunteers worked and pounds of vegetables grown.

In 2015, Three Brothers Garden deepened its partnership with the Irving Park Food Pantry by assisting with the construction of an herb garden at the pantry and offering gardening classes to the pantry's clients. Led by volunteer Dorene Jordan, Project Homegrown provided materials and instruction to 35 food pantry clients on how to grow tomatoes and herbs at home. Project Homegrown, which was funded by the ChiDitarod Foundation, culminated in a cooking class that used tomatoes and herbs grown by the class.



Ruth Olech and Rebecca Haneberg are the co-chairs of the volunteer committee that oversees the garden. Committee members are Erin Bouman, Yaz Ebeid, Dorene Jordan, Liz Mills, Melanie Reschke and Rich Wielock. The garden is fortunate to have such talented and dedicated garden leaders and volunteers! We are grateful to the many people who believe that everyone should have access to delicious organic vegetables. Thank you!

Carlson Launches New Web Site

The Carlson Community Services web site has a new look! Check it out at www.carlsoncommunityservices.org. The site was designed by Worksite LLC a neighborhood web design company. The new site features lots of photos, updated content, an events page and a short video. Let us know what you think!

Carlson Community Services sponsors the Magic After-School Place, Three Brothers Garden and the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee. The mission of Carlson, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is to connect the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. For more information, contact Liz Mills at 773-398-6766 or lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Dorsi Thillens Finnegan

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News From Irving Park Community Food Pantry

By Craig Shutt

Pantry Celebrates Holidays December 16th

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry will hold its annual holiday distribution for clients on Wednesday, December 16th. At this event each year, we close the Pantry to our typical Wednesday operation and provide our qualified clients with the makings of a holiday dinner. We also allow those clients with children up to 12 years old to “shop” our Toy Room for a gift and a book for each of them.

To fill these needs, we are especially in need of stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned yams and vegetables, instant potatoes, cake mixes, Jell-O and canned pumpkin. For traditional food drives, we also are in need of dry goods, such as peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, hamburger helper-type meals (such as rice-a-roni and pasta-roni), whole-grain crackers, dried fruit and nuts, dry soup mixes, energy bars and juice (100% fruit juice). We always are in need of toiletries of all types.

We typically give out about 400 toys or so to clients. For some, it will be the only gift they receive, and those kids who are able to come in to pick out their own gift are very excited and happy to receive one. Your donations ensure clients' children can talk about their special presents with their friends who receive so much more. This year, we will not be receiving support from Toys for Tots, as we have in the past due to the amount of confidential information about recipients they now require. At press time, we're happy to say that we've received a lot of toy donations, and we thank you for your support!

We'd like to thank Sara Yoest for coordinating the toy program this year. Volunteers are needed to collect toys, set up the toy room Tuesday night and help with the toy distribution on December 16. For information or to volunteer, contact Sara at sara.yoest74@gmail.com.

Please remember to sign up for and use the Amazon Smile feature at Amazon when you shop for the holidays at that site. If you use that bookmark (which doesn't change how you access the site) and designate the Pantry as the recipient, we will receive 0.5% of the price of all purchases made all year long. We have already received several checks since signing up earlier this year, so it does pay off!

Great thanks to the anonymous donor who contributed 245 pairs of men's, women's, kid's and infant's socks



Volunteers Carmen Messina (left) and Jen (Maria) Murphy put together some of the bags of Thanksgiving food that the Pantry gave to qualified clients (three visits this year before September) in November. Photo by Craig Shutt

in November! We appreciate the donation, and we are always looking to replenish our supply. Many of the children's socks will be given away with our Holiday distribution, as we receive fewer requests for those. Men's white crew socks are especially useful, as men and women both like those for use year-round.

The Cultivating Growth Community Herb Garden by the Pantry's front door has yielded several hundred baggies of fresh herbs (basil, oregano, cilantro, thyme, parsley, mint, rosemary and sage) that have been distributed to clients each week immediately after harvest. Special thanks to Liz Mills, Executive Director of Carlson Community Services and the Three Brothers Community Garden, for her invaluable assistance and advice for this project. Thanks also to Vicci Rodgers, Rev Lowell Allen and Molly Melick for their efforts in maintaining the garden.

Thank you to everyone who attended, supported or donated to the Pantry's 7th annual Wine & Beer Tasting & Silent Auction, which was held Sunday, October 25th at the Abbey Pub. We appreciate their gracious hosting of the event and all their support in planning and putting it on. Thank you to all the committee members who helped make it a success: Joyce Benninghouse, Nora Byrne, Mike Mette, Marsha Niazmand, Craig Shutt, Lee Stein and Belma Torres.

Thank you to Peter Litton for once again arranging the wine selections and to H2Vino for donating a number of wines from around the world. Thank you as well to all the craft breweries who donated their beverages: Finch's Beer Co., Lake Effect Brewing, Metropolitan Brewing and Revolution Brewing, each of which donated two brands.

Continued on page 9

Chicago Bibles & Books

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Monday to Saturday 10-6
www.biblesandbooks.com



*Heaven and
earth will pass
away, but My
words shall by
no means pass
away.*

Matt.24:35

Local Church News

Irving Park United Methodist Church

3801 N Keeler Ave, 773-283-6262

Broadway unFROZEN is December 13 at 6:00 pm! Bring the whole family for this special show in which two sister princesses have an adventure to find a different kind of king! The show includes a number of favorite songs from Broadway and film, and a very talented cast of neighborhood children. The tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children at the door, or may be purchased online. Performance is at IPUMC. A portion of the ticket sales will go to support Irving Park Community Food Pantry! We hope to have a link to purchase tickets online on our website! Call 773-283-6262 for more information or ticket reservations! Visit broadwayunfrozen.eventbrite.com

Preparing for Advent: The Action List! This year we are inviting everyone to come on a journey. Throughout the journey there will be opportunities to serve, learn and have fun. Everyone is welcome to all events!

The Night Ministry! We are volunteering at The Night Ministry on Saturday, December 12th at 9 am. We will help to prepare stockings and other items to be distributed to the homeless throughout Chicago. If you have items to donate or want to come along, call the office at 773-283-6262 – we'll be glad to have you!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm!

Everyone is welcome to this family-centered worship service! Carols, and candles and the best story of all! You are invited to come and celebrate on Christmas Eve!

St. John's Episcopal Church

3857 N. Kostner, 773-725-9026

Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe

Celebrate the Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe on Saturday, December 12 at 5 pm with our first worship service in Spanish. Everyone is welcome to attend. Following the service we will have a Latin-themed potluck. Please bring your favorite dish from any Spanish-speaking country.

Irving Park Lutheran Church

3938 W. Belle Plaine, 773-267-1666

16th Annual Angel Team Christmas Gift and Wrapping Event for the Homeless Saturday, December 12th, 10:00 am – 7 pm in the IPLC Gym / To all “earth angels,” past, present and future: Our goal is to show the homeless that someone cares about them this holiday season and that hope is alive! This year, our aim—as in many years past—is to serve at least 1000 people in need

ALDERMAN JOHN ARENA

45

Join us for Ward Night
Tuesday evenings from 5-7PM

Contact the 45th Ward Office

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Phone: 773-286-4545 ward45@cityofchicago.org
www.ward45.org



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this Christmas with special gifts of love. Come when you can, leave when you must! Bring your donations of gifts, and wrapping paper, tape and scissors. Each event will have a raffle, a silent auction and a potluck lunch. All proceeds go to the homeless. Purchase and donate as many new items of warmth, toiletries, and fun for adults and/or children as you are able. If you cannot attend any of the events and want to donate these items or make a financial donation, please contact Terri L. Santiago at 773-322-7723 or AliveandJoyful37@aol.com.

Advent & Christmas Worship at IPLC

Sunday, Dec. 20th, 10:30 am - Worship: Advent 4 & Lessons & Carols from Luke 1

Thursday, Dec. 24th, 10:30 pm - Christmas Eve Worship

Friday, Dec. 25th, 10:30 am - Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, Dec. 27th, 10:30 am - Worship: 1st Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, Jan. 3rd, 10:30 am - Worship: Epiphany, Taking Down the Greens

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Thank you to Sandra Schwarzbeck and Elvia Esparza for coordinating the silent auction. Special thanks to all who donated silent auction prizes! They included: Missy Baumgarten, Nora Byrne, Bloom Yoga Studio, Bridgeport Family Dental Center, Community Tavern, Dovetail Studios, Grace Street Inn, Laura Finn, Leslie Frazier, Koval Distillery, Lagunitas Brewing Co., Bridget Larsen, Little Helpers, Peter Litton, Moonlight Design, Nail Studio, Mimi Nguyen, Original Alps Restaurant, The Portage Restaurant, Reckless Records, Judi Rosenthal, Carol Schultz and Sara Yoest.

Thanks also to Volunteer Manager Lee Stein for her beautiful graphic designs on our invitation and other materials and to volunteer Rafal Glaz, owner of SaveMax Depot, for donating the printing of the invitations.

Thank you to Disney II Magnet School volunteers, especially coordinators Ia Jorjoliani and Nadia Schimmel and volunteers Ia, Renee Linnemeyer and Simona Nitu for running our annual coat-distribution program this year. They gave out 225 coats. Thank you to Park Ridge Presbyterian Church and Carter Westminster United Presbyterian Church for their special collections in support of the distribution and to everyone who took the time and effort to bring coats for our distribution. They were very much appreciated by our clients!

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of our regular distributions and our special programs. With your help, we will continue to live up to our slogan of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

Continued from page 3

As always, call 911 to report suspicious activity or individuals in your neighborhood and provide detailed descriptions of the individuals and vehicles involved in any incident. Even if a neighbor has already reported the incident or activity, other neighbors should make separate calls. The police often look at the number of calls for service in determining the allocation of officers and resources with respect to a particular situation or incident. 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 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month and typically last one hour. The next regularly scheduled meeting for Beat 1723 is Wednesday, December 16, 2015. Please contact me at lizmills@sbcglobal.net if there are issues that you would like addressed at the CAPS meeting. If you or a neighbor have been the victim of a crime and you would like to share that information with your neighbors, e-mail the details to westwalkercrimealerts@gmail.com. The exact address of the crime and name of the victim will be kept anonymous.

*Liz Mills
CAPS Coordinator*

17th District Chicago Police Department

4650 N. Pulaski / 312-742-4410

FACEBOOK PAGE: CAPS-017th District-Albany Park

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Commander Elias Voulgaris,
Elias.voulgaris@chicagopolice.org

CAPS Sgt. Anderson, 312-742-4588,
CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org

Beat 1722 & 1723 CAPS Meeting (West Walker is Beat 1723) is the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the 17th District Community Room.



CICS-Irving Park School

News Leading the Change! On November 17th, Chicago International Charter School (CICS) representatives visited our

school to see how we are implementing personalized learning initiatives. They have seen positive results and are considering applying our approach in other schools.

Giving Thanks Once again, our school had a Thanksgiving Meal Drive, where we asked for help in providing Thanksgiving meals for our neediest families. Donations were received to give turkey and trimmings to those who have hit a rough spot along the way.

Staff Accolades Congratulations to 3rd grade teacher Ms. Claire Nolan, named CICS Irving Park Staff Member of the Year by her colleagues. Thanks for all you do for our kids, Ms. Nolan... you deserve the recognition!

Sports Program Update Our Varsity Girls Volleyball team reached the playoffs this year! Members of our Cross Country teams competed in the CPS City Championship Meet at Washington Park on October 31st! Congratulations to all of our runners, and especially Elliot Myers for his Top 10 finish!

Secret Santa We are sponsoring a Secret Santa Drive to provide gifts to those families in need. If you would like to donate, please contact Ms. Cotrone at 773-433-5000 or email dcotrone@distinctiveschools.org to make arrangements.

Filament Presents a New Folk Musical Adaptation of Pinocchio

Filament presents *Pinocchio: a Folk Musical* a new musical adaptation by Tyler Beattie (Hungry Hungry Hippos film in development with Hasbro) and directed by Scott Ferguson (Schoolhouse Rock Live! writer/creator). Chicagoans will experience Pinocchio as he's never been seen before in this freewheeling folk musical adventure of the puppet who learns to be real. *Pinocchio: a Folk Musical* plays Filament Theatre located at 4041 N. Milwaukee Ave from January 22 thru March 6, 2016.

"Pinocchio is at first glance a sprawling adventure, with magical creatures and journeys into wonderful and strange situations," says Beattie. "And yet at its core what makes this story endure is the way it explores the love of family, and the challenges and many pitfalls we encounter when we are growing up." Beattie goes on to say that "Pinocchio is great for kids - but really it is for adults who remember how hard it was to grow up, or wonder if they ever really did."

Beattie & Ferguson are reunited after collaborating in 2009 on Filament's highly praised *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, which Ferguson credits as one of his favorite creative processes to date. "The musical world that Tyler creates is so original and haunting, and it just hits you in that sweet spot that sticks with you," says Ferguson. He assures audiences: "Pinocchio is another memorable piece of theatre."

The show features six multi-talented actor/musicians who dexterously move from character to character while playing instruments including guitar, upright bass, accordion, piano, saxophone, clarinet, and violin. In collaboration with the performers, music director and orchestrator Tim McNulty has incorporated notes of gypsy jazz, the blues, and dixieland music into Beattie's endearing folk score.

Tickets range from \$5 - \$20 and are now available at www.filamenttheatre.org/pinocchio. Preview tickets are available for only \$5 thanks to the Inside Out Art Studio & Mask Shop. Filament is also offering school field trips and pre-show workshops!

The running time of the musical is approximately 60 minutes, and is perfect for ages 4 years and up. Performances are on Saturdays at 3 pm and 7 pm, Sunday at 12 pm & 3 pm. Filament Theatre is located at 4041 N. Milwaukee. Call the box office at 773-270-1660.

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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 December, 2015 appears below.

Peter and Carla Forster
Mary O'Callaghan

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.

Mail your 2015-2016 dues with the application below. You can also pay your WWCA dues with either PayPal or a credit card at the West Walker website (www.westwalker.org)!

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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.
- WE PREFER that ad artwork be submitted as a file attachment and sent in an e-mail to: WWWire@solsticepr.com.

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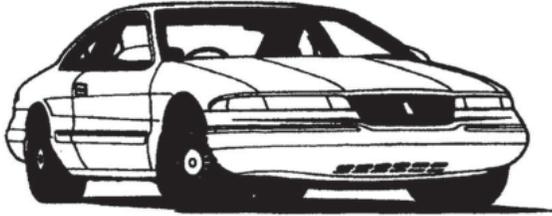
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Mail or drop off your application and dues to: Sue Gregoire, 4106 N Springfield, Chicago, IL 60618

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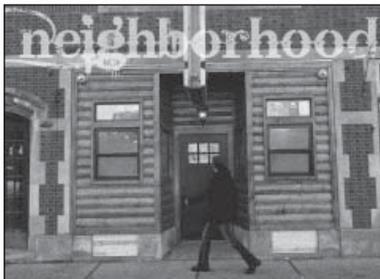
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