

WESTWALKER ——WIRE——

DECEMBER 2019

www.westwalker.org

Got Cookies? Got Gifts?

In need of gifts or cookies this holiday season? What about BOTH? We think it's safe to say that 100% of you could answer yes to that ouestion. Stop on in at St. John's Lutheran Church's **Annual Cookie Walk & Gift Bazaar** on Wednesday, December 11 from 3 - 6 pm and 7-8 pm. St. John's Lutheran Church is located at 4939 W. Montrose.

Six Corners Seeks New Board Members!

The Board of Directors of the Six Corners Association (6CA) seeks nominations to fill Board vacancies. This is a 3-year term. Selection will prioritize candidates who run a business and/or own a commercial property at Six Corners or are neighborhood residents near Six Corners, and possess one or more of the following skill sets: fundraising, special events, marketing, finance/accounting/budgeting, non-profit law, small business development and support, and nonprofit board experience.

Six Corner Association board members are active and highly engaged in both guiding the organization's vision and goals and, with our staff, directly contribute time to developing and executing 6CA programs. Visit: tinyurl.com/sfc4k7w and fill out the application to apply for a board position. For more information about 6CA, visit: sixcorners.com.

WITHIN THE WIRE...

- 2 Dear Neighbor
- 3 News from Irving Park Lutheran Church Basketball
- 4 CAPS Report
- 5 Irving Park Community Food Pantry
- 6 Carlson Community Services
- 7 Healing Retreat St. Edward School News
- 9 Cash For Kids Concert to Benefit Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sun., Dec. 15 • 5 - 9 pm Holiday Bingo! St. Edward Parish, Unity Hall 4350 W. Sunnyside Details on page 7

Sun., Dec. 22 • 12 noon - 5 pm Om For the Holidays Healing Retreat Fundraiser Independence Park Bungalow 3900 N. Hamlin Details on page 7

Wed., Jan. 15 • 7:00 pm Beats 1722/1723 CAPS Meeting 17th District Community Room 4650 N. Pulaski

Sat., Jan. 55 • 5:00 pm (doors open) Cash For Kids! Irish American Heritage Center 4626 N. Knox Details on page 9

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

Dear Neighbor,

Merry Christmas!

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Stay Current with West Walker Blasts! To submit an announcement or get on the list, email wwcablasts@gmail.com today!

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

Let them know you saw them in the West Walker Wire.



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

2019-2020 OFFICERS Mike Webber President Pro Tem 773.539.8346

Vice President Pro Tem Davor Engel dengel@studiode.com

Secretary Vacant Treasurer Sue Gregoire

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

Dorie Westmeyer

CAPS COORDINATOR LizMills@sbcglobal.net

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

WEST WALKER CARRIER STAFF

Chris & Mauve Altman Carol Barry **Eric Bauer Beverly Birch** Tori Bohannon & John Lopez Terry Culver Alexander & Max Engel Jim Medd Mark Pascale & Susan Matthews Will & Caitlin Poirier Jeanne Pozy & Joel Reese Tricia Ramirez & Mike Hawlitzky **Rick & Melanie Reschke** Sue Trudeau & Tom Williams

> EDITOR Lee Samsami Stein

WEST WALKER EMAIL BLASTS Anne Marie O'Kelley

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.



News From Irving Park Lutheran Church

Longest Night: Saturday December 21st, 7:00 pm - Evening Worship & Fellowship: Holden Evening Prayer & Parsonage Open House Join us this longest night of the year for the beautiful melodies of Holden Evening Prayer. Gather by candlelight in the sanctuary and sing of the coming of the light of the world. Then head over to the parsonage for Christmas cookies and festive beverages!

Christmas Worship Times at IPLC: Tuesday Dec. 24

Family Christmas Eve Service at 4:30 pm. Festive Christmas Eve Service at 10:00 pm.

Wednesday Dec. 25

Christmas Day Worship, Lessons & Carols with Holy Smokes, at 10:30 am.

Ist Sunday of Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 29 at 10:30 am. **Epiphany,** Sunday Jan. 5 at 10:30 am.

Basketball for 40+ on Sundays

Did you know that there are basketball pick-up games for neighbors 40 and over, starting Sunday, Jan. 5? The games will take place at the gymnasium of Irving Park Lutheran Church every Sunday thereafter from 2 to 3 p.m. Participation is \$5 per Sunday, collect in cash at time of play. For more information, contact steveomans@gmail.com to be put on an ongoing email list. Remember, games start Sunday, January 5 from 2-3 pm at Irving Park Lutheran Church, located at 4057 N. Harding.

REAL ESTATE NEWS



By Dorie Westmeyer Realtor®, MBA, ADPR Your Neighborhood Realtor!

2019 West Walker Homes Sales Strong!

Hi Neighbors,

2019 was a good year for real estate in West Walker. Year-to-date vs last year, median sale prices were stable to slightly up (+2-3%.). The average time to sell was down - single family (79 days) & multifamily (29 days). Condos /townhomes' time to sell increased – 80 days vs 57 days last year.

And more properties sold versus last year.

Single Family Homes – 34 homes sold at a median price of \$424,000.

Condos/Townhomes – 21 sold at a median price of \$200,000.

2 to 4 flats -10 sold at a median price of \$439,000.

Keep in mind, these are averages. Each home is unique. If you would like to know what your home is worth please give me a call.

Wishing you Happy Holidays, Peace & Joy.

If you are thinking of selling in the next 24 months, and want to get the highest sale price, please call me for a free home consultation.

Call Dorie, Your Neighborhood Realtor 847-989-4870

Dorie Westmeyer

charles rutenberg realty 847-989-4870 · Dorie@DorieWestmeyer.com

CAPS Report

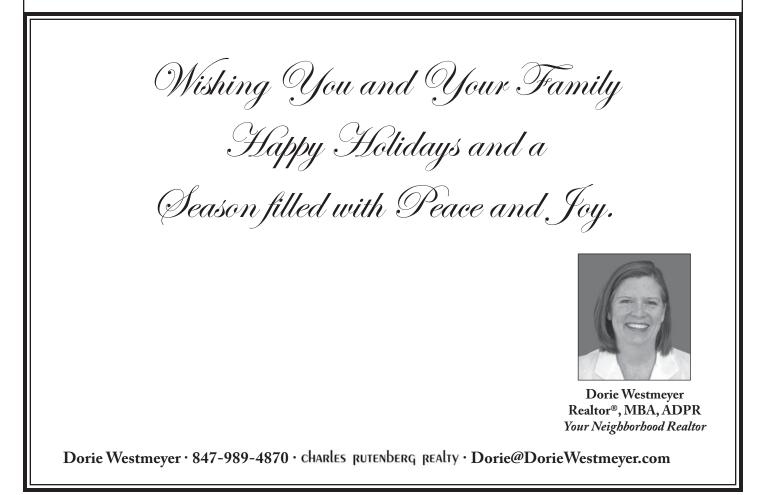
Beats 1722 & 1723 Meeting November 20, 2019

In attendance: Sgt. Deb Iza, Lt. Jim McGovern, Capt. Ed Kaup, Beat Officers, Alderman Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35th), Chris Poulos from Ald. Rodriguez's office (33rd), CPD Community Organizer John Campos and approximately 20 residents.

A representative from Com Ed talked about their free Home Energy Assessment program, which includes free and discounted products. To schedule a free assessment, visit www.comed.com/WaysToSave/ForYourHome/Pages/ SingleFamily.aspx or call 855.433.2700.

Sgt. Iza gave an update on a previous concern about an individual breaking into cars on Montrose near California. With the help of neighbor videos, an individual was arrested and charged with felony burglary. She also mentioned that the gentleman who sets up camp along Irving Park Road near Central Park has satisfied whatever the courts required and is on the street again. A resident asked about the Nov. 8th shooting of a 14-year-old boy who was shot in the head on his way home with his mother from Homecoming at Von Steuben High School. Due to the ongoing nature of the investigation, the Sgt. wasn't able to provide an update. Other shootings in the vicinity of Irving Park Road and Kedzie around the same time were noted. Lt. Jim McGovern answered questions about an incident that occurred on November 19th on Irving Park Road at Lowell. A suspected bank robber was chased by the Des Plaines and Illinois state police and subsequently an officer from the 17th District as well as a 15-year-old bystander were shot. Lt. McGovern wasn't able to provide much more information than that both the officer and the boy would survive and that the suspect was killed. He urged residents to call 911 when they see suspicious activity and to send police their ring doorbell video if they think it may have recorded a crime or suspect. He stated that if you call 911 and the operator is not taking your concern seriously, ask to speak to a supervisor. Calls for service are very important in determining the deployment of manpower.

Continued on page 8





News From Irving Park Community Food Pantry

By Craig Shutt

Pantry Celebrates Holidays December 18th

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry will hold its annual holiday distribution for clients on Wednesday, December 18th. At this event each year, we close the Pantry to our typical operation and provide qualified clients with the makings of a holiday dinner. We also allow clients with children up to 12 years old to "shop" our Toy Room for a gift and a book for each child.

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. Monetary donations to help buy these items are especially appreciated, as we often can leverage our volume and sources to buy at greatly reduced prices. A letter explaining our needs and how you can help was mailed to supporters in mid-November.

We typically give out about 350 toys and this year we expect to give out more, as we've picked up many new clients since our move to 4256 N. Ridgeway in September. We especially need gifts for older children (age 10 to 12). Books always are gone early for all ages. We're also collecting stocking stuffers. Hats, gloves, scarves, and blankets also are given to those in need.

Unwrapped new toys and food donations can be brought to the Pantry at Emanuel United Methodist Church (4256 N. Ridgeway) on Wednesday mornings (8:30 to noon) or on Tuesday evening, Dec. 10th (6 to 7:30 pm). New, unwrapped toys only can be dropped off at Old Irving Brewing Co. (4419 W. Montrose Ave.) or the Irving Park YMCA (4251 W. Irving Park Rd.). Other local businesses will have drop-off boxes, too; please check our Facebook page.

The deadline for donating toys is Wednesday, December 11th. Volunteers are needed to collect toys, stock the layout on December 16th and distribute them on December 18th. To help, contact Sara Yoest at sara. yoest74@gmail.com.

Don't forget: Please use the Smile program at Amazon when you shop for the holidays. When you sign up, Amazon donates 0.5% of your payment to the Pantry. It adds up!





From top: Sara Yoest (at right in Pantry t-shirt) and Debby Fries (second from left in front row) prepare their volunteer team to help clients select a gift from the Pantry's Toy Room in 2018. To donate or volunteer, email sara. yoest74@gmail.com. Photo by Craig Shutt

SPOTTED: Volunteers at the Irving Park Food Pantry's coat drive in October included (I-r): Julie Tye, Sara Yoest, Cade Linnemeyer, Renee Linnemeyer, Vivian Thomas and Megan Stalder. The program continued into November due to the high number of coats donated. Photo by Craig Shutt

News and Events from Carlson Community Services



Carlson Community Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit connecting

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

unitv

Carlson Trivia Night Big Success for Carlson Program

Thanks to everyone who participated in Carlson Community Services' November Trivia Night to benefit Carlson's programs. In our 13th contest, a crowd of 150 players battled for \$200 in prize money and bragging rights! Carlson is grateful to the players, sponsors, raffle, silent auction and beverage donors for their support.

A team led by Carlson volunteer and former board member Helen Lira broke a three way-tie to win the nine round competition. The team generously donated their \$200 in prize winnings back to Carlson Community Services. The evening netted over \$10,000 for Carlson's programs -- The Magic After-School Place, Three Brothers Garden and the Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series.

Thanks to the following Round Sponsors and donors who helped make the evening a financial success: Round Sponsors were Dorie Westmeyer, Charles Rutenberg Realty, Wintrust Bank Mayfair Branch, Alderman Samantha Nugent, 39th Ward and Carlson Community Services Board & Committees. Raffle and silent auction donors were Bruce Anderson, Rod & Melanie Zech, Hearth & Crust, Thalia Hall and Glenn Kotche. Wine and beer were donated by Kevin and Wanda McDonald, Revolution Brewing and Bill Sherlock. Master of Ceremonies Patrick McKee did a masterful job of overseeing the quiz and raising funds for the organization. A shout out goes to our many volunteers and to our host, Irving Park





From top: Helen Lira and team "Not Here to Make Friends" were the victors in Carlson Community Services' Trivia Night. The team generously donated their \$200 winnings back to Carlson.

Patrick McKee served as MC for Carlson's Trivia Night, bringing the laughs and the cash for the non-profit's programs.

Lutheran Church for their help in making the event a success. Another fun night in the neighborhood for a great cause!

The mission of Carlson Community Services, 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 lizmills@ carlsoncommunityservices.org. Follow us on Facebook for photos and info about our programs and events!



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Om for the Holidays: A Healing Retreat

Join in the fun and destress before Christmas and New Year's - all for a great cause! Om For the Holidays is our 3rd annual fundraiser for Sarah's Circle Women's shelter. It will be held on Sunday, December 22, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm at the Independence Park Bungalow, located at 3900 N. Hamlin (corner of Hamlin and Byron).

This retreat features amazing classes with master instructors, essential oils and oracle card readings.

Classes and schedule:

Hatha Yoga 12:10 - 12:50 Kundalini Yoga 1:00 - 2:15 QiGong 2:30 - 3:10 Vinyasa/Pilates 3:20 - 4:00 Gong Bath/Meditative Healing 4:10 - 4:45

Ongoing from noon to 4:00 pm: Oracle Card Readings Essential Oils and Mandalas!

Its a wonderful retreat for all! Admission is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Proceeds go to Sarah's Circle. For details, questions, or to register in advance, Contact Carol Valentino-Barry at 773-428-0892 or email valbarry@sbcglobal.net.

News From St. Edward School

Congratulations to the 7th grade Girls Basketball team on winning the NWCC 2019 championship! We are BIG RED proud of you!

New to St. Edward Parish – Bingo! Everyone is welcome to attend our special holiday bingo game on Sunday, December 15 from 5:00 – 9:00pm. \$1/game card, 5 games played; BYO snacks and drinks. Must be 18 years or older to attend.

Plan to attend St. Edward Catholic School's **biggest open house of the year on Sunday, January 26, 2020** in the gym immediately following the 9:30 a.m. mass. Discover all that St. Edward School has to offer.

This year St. Edward School & Parish celebrates 110 years of providing a Catholic education to children in grades PK3 – 8th grade. St. Edward School is also a 2017 recipient of the National Blue Ribbon. Before and after school care is available. Applications for the 2020-21 school year are now being accepted. With 8,500 baby boomers retiring every day, long term care is topic of concern for Americans. It's time to create an action plan to protect yourself and your family.



At this event you will learn:

• What government benefits are available to pay for your care.

- The PPA Pension Protect Act
- VA Benefits
- Dementia vs Alzheimer's...what's the difference?
- Financial and legal concerns.

• What caregiving issues and cost you could be facing.

Attendance is FREE. Seating is limited so email us to reserve your seat. info@bsternins.com

Brought to you by: Beth Stern, CLTC B. Stern Insurance Advisors 312.501.1522

Saturday, November 16, 2019 Noon-1:00 pm Independence Library 4024 N. Elston Ave., Chicago Thursday, December 5, 2019 6:00pm - 7:00pm Independence Library 4024 N. Elston Ave., Chicago

For more information, please visit our website at www. stedwardschool.com or call us at 773-736-9133. Our campus is located at 4343 W. Sunnyside Avenue, easily accessible with close proximity to the Kennedy and Edens expressways, walking distance from the Blue Line, Metra station and the Montrose and Cicero Avenue bus lines.





Stephanie Cutter Local Real Estate

Available Listings!



3629 N Kimball Ave \$256,000 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms

3854 N Kostner Ave \$775,000 6 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms



4009 W Grace Ave \$469,900 3 Bedrooms, 3.5 Bathrooms



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Continued from page 4

Attendees were reminded that it's the season for package theft, so be sure to have your packages sent to a secure location. Also, don't leave your car running and unattended. Criminals will steal your car to use it to commit crimes.

Alderman Rosa (35th Ward) stated that some illegal businesses along Montrose near Hamlin have been shut down recently, including a gambling operation and illegal massage parlor. He has overseen the installation of \$50,000 in camera surveillance equipment throughout his ward. In addition, he is working with other legislators to fund the purchase of a Shot Spotter, similar to what is used on the South and West sides to immediately provide CPD the location of shots fired. Chris Poulos from Ald. Rossana Rodriguez's office (33rd ward) reported that the Alderman is working with community groups on violence prevention workshops and fighting for resources for the ward and 17th district.

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 are held on the third Wednesday of the month and typically last one hour. The next regularly scheduled meeting for Beat 1723 is Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Note: There will be no CAPS meeting in December. 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

Here's how to reach or follow the 17th District CAPS office. Facebook: www.facebook.com/CAPS.017 Twitter: @ChicagoCAPS17 Email: CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org Phone: 312-742-4588 Event Calendar: http://home.chicagopolice.org



Cash for Kids! January 25, 2020

Cash for Kids! Chicago's only Johnny Cash Festival and fundraiser for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation features music on three different stages throughout the evening, including touring and local acts - all in the spirit of The Man in Black. Cash for Kids is a celebration of the creativity, vibe and spirit of Johnny Cash and the Carter Family's contribution to American music. Whether it's country, folk, rockabilly, blues or various other genres Johnny explored, you can expect to hear one of your favorites or even something you've never heard before. Enjoy 10 bands on 3 stages and join musicians and music lovers as they come together in the fight against pediatric brain tumors. The event is conveniently located at the Irish American Heritage Center with easy access to all parts of Chicagoland and plenty of free parking. Cash for Kids has become what many attendees call the best night of the year!

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation is the world's leading nonprofit dedicated to the childhood brain tumor community. The foundation serves the more than 28,000 U.S. children and teens battling brain tumors by investing in the most promising research and providing practical, informational and emotional support to families. Artists scheduled to perform include The Waco Brothers, Hayden Thompson, Iron Horse, The Dark Passengers, Maybe April, Hodie Snitch, Wild Erp & the Free For Alls, Dry County Line, Kelsey & Owen and SaddleTramps.

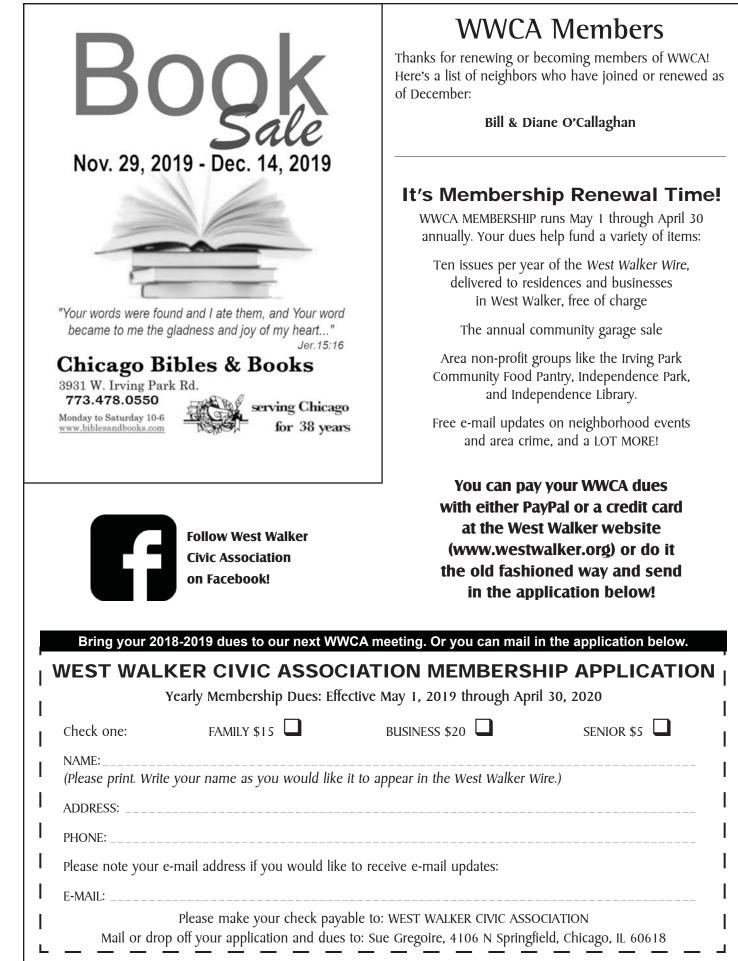
Join us at the Irish American Heritage Center (4626 N. Knox) on Saturday, January 25. Tickets are \$20 presale, \$25 at the door. Food and drinks sold separately. Doors open at 5 pm. Visit: team. curethekids.org/ cashforkids to get your tickets early or make a donation!



For more

information, contact Steve Davern at stephenrobertdavern@gmail.com.











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District Office 3007 W. Irving Park Rd, Suite A-Front Office



We encourage you to stop by if you need help accessing state services and to share your thoughts and ideas on ways to improve our community and state.

IL 40th District- Jaime Andrade