



WEST WALKER WIRE

DECEMBER 2020

www.westwalker.org

Vote on Public Projects in Your Ward! Now Through December 17th

How will you vote to use public money to improve public spaces in the 33rd Ward? It is time to vote for how you wish to see 33rd Ward Aldermanic infrastructure funds utilized in the ward. You can now REGISTER to vote online in the ward's 2021 Participatory Budgeting (PB) process at the link below:

forms.gle/byeEyvFhBeJwhRaV7

Keep in mind:

- If you are 14 years and older and you live in the 33rd Ward, you are eligible to submit your vote in this process.
- Check to see if you live in the ward here: www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mayor/iframe/lookup_ward_and_alderman.html
- Please DO NOT register twice. The ward will manually confirm your address and e-mail voting instructions out on a weekly basis so expect a few days to receive an e-mail.

Voting will close on December 17. Read more about the PB process here: <https://33rdward.org/participatory-budgeting/>

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sun, Dec. 12 • 8:00 pm
Ghostlight Theater Ensemble
Live Virtual Holiday Cabaret
See page 3 for details.

Sun./Mon., Dec. 12/13
St. Edward's Boy Scout Troop 904
Spaghetti Dinner To Go
See page 7 for details to order online.

Beginning Mon., Dec. 13
IPFAC Presents
Jazz Christmas w/Max Bessesen Trio
Available on Carlson Community
Services YouTube Channel
See page 6 for details.

Wed., Dec. 16 • 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Beats 1722 & 1723 Zoom CAPS Mtg.
Email: CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org for a link.

WITHIN THE WIRE...

- 2 Dear Neighbor
- 3 News From IPLC • Ghostlight Ensemble • Ghostlight Ensemble
- 4 CAPS Report
- 5 News From Irving Park Community Food Pantry
- 6 Carlson Community Services
- 7 Neighborhood School News

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

Dear Neighbor,

Merry Christmas!

gëzuar Krishtlindja Shnorhavor Surb tsnund

veselë koleda shèng dàn kuài lè SELAMAT NATAL

Nadelek lowen Sretan Božić God Jul

veselë Vánoce **glædelig jul**

vrolijk Kerstfeest Joyeux Noël Gëlotsavt, Shobas

fröhliche Weihnachten **Mừng Chúa Giáng Sinh**

kala christougenna hag molad saméa'h

KRISMAS KI SUBHKAMNA boldog karácsonyt

Buon Natale souksaan wan Christmas

merii Kurisumasu SEUN-TAN CHU-KA-HAE-YO

Noela we piroz be **srečan Božić** priecīgus Ziemassvētkus

SU KALĒDOMIS **Wesołych Świąt** un Crăciun fericit

VESELE VIANOCE **FELIZ NAVIDAD**

Stay Safe and Well

Mike Webber

WWCA President, Pro Tem

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

2020-2021 OFFICERS

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773.539.8346

Vice President Pro Tem Davor Engel
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Dorie Westmeyer

CAPS COORDINATOR

LizMills@sbcglobal.net

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

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Jim Medd

Mark Pascale & Susan Matthews

Jeanne Pozy & Joel Reese

Will & Caitlin Poirier

Jeanne Pozy & Joel Reese

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.



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Special Seasonal Decorations this Year at Irving Park Lutheran Church

Stop by the corner of Harding and Belle Plaine and peek in the windows to see a scene lovelier than any department store window display. Just behind two sets of double doors in the church vestibule, positioned at an angle and enhanced with a spotlight, is a large, hand-painted nativity set. Yet another lighted nativity set may be found in front of the building, next to the church sign on Harding. And for something a bit lighthearted, we put a Christmas tree in the handicapped lift. You may also listen to our carillon play seasonal hymns at noon, six, and 9 pm.

Christmas 2020 at Irving Park Lutheran Church
Events subject to change. Online **Sunday School Christmas Play**, December 20th (and after) at iplc.org & IPLC YouTube channel.

Outdoor Christmas Eve Services - community garden, please RSVP. December 24th at 4 & 6 pm if the sign-up fills up we will add a 5 pm service

Online Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services
December 24th & 25th (and after) at iplc.org & IPLC YouTube channel.

Ghostlight Ensemble Goes Online for Season Four:

Holiday Cabaret @ 8pm on Sunday, Dec. 12
Ghostlight Ensemble announced its Season 4 lineup, which brings back two popular offerings and introduces a new reading series of historically overlooked female playwrights. This season the company will present its offerings online, with the hopes of moving back to the stage in the summer of 2021.

The live, but virtual, Holiday Cabernet takes place at 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 12. Additional details, including artist bios, vendor wares and how to reserve tickets are available on their website at GhostlightEnsemble.com/holiday-cabernet-3.

New WWCA Members

Here's a list of neighbors who have joined or renewed as of December: **Rick & Melanie Reschke, Pulaski Cleaners** and **Irving Park Lutheran Church** - THANK YOU! To renew your membership, you can pay your WWCA dues with either PayPal or a credit card at www.westwalker.org.

REAL ESTATE NEWS



By Dorie Westmeyer
Realtor®, MBA, ADPR

Your Neighborhood Realtor!

Tips to Prepare Your Home for Winter

Hopefully we will have another mild winter. Here are a few ideas to get ready.

- 1. Consider a weatherization inspection** – Did you have icicles last year? A contractor can identify air leaks and inadequate insulation in your home's attic that can lead to ice dams.
- 2. Inspect and clean the furnace & ductwork** – it will run more efficiently, be healthier & ensure there is no carbon monoxide leakage.
- 3. Caulk around windows and doors** - if the gaps between siding and window or door frames are bigger than the width of a nickel, apply exterior caulk. Silicone caulk is best because it won't shrink and is weather resistant.
- 4. Clean the gutters** - so water won't back up against the house and damage roofing, siding and wood trim. I've used My Window Washing to clean our gutters and windows - 800-941-2790. They'll even give you \$10 off!
- 5. Inspect your chimney** – Professional chimney cleaners can remove buildup. For gas fireplaces, have the gas line inspected; clean the doors & dust and gently vacuum inside.

Sources: Bill Richardson, Esswein

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
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CAPS Report

Beats 1722 & 1723

Zoom Meeting, November 18, 2020

In Attendance: CAPS Officer Zander, Sgt. Iza, Officer Boon, Ald. Rodriguez's staff (33rd), Ald. Nugent and staff (39th), Jessica from Ald. Rosa's staff (35th), Rep. Andrade and staff.

Officer Zander opened the meeting by reviewing the Beat boundaries. All of West Walker lies in Beat 1723. The last Beat meeting was held in September. CAPS Officer Zander reported year over year crime statistics for the 17th District. Burglaries are down 29%, motor vehicle thefts are down 11%, robberies are up 37%. Shootings and homicides are up, with 32 more shootings compared with last year. Homicides have more than doubled year-to-date. In 2019 there were 5 homicides, compared with 11 so far this year.

Officer Zander reported several incidents where 17th officers made arrests and recovered guns and drugs, mostly occurring north of West Walker. He also reported on the recovery of a young boy who was the subject of

an Amber Alert on November 16th. Beat officers noticed a car parked in front of a fire hydrant at Pulaski and Belle Plaine that matched the Amber Alert description. The boy was found safe inside and taken to Swedish Hospital. The man suspected in the carjacking is in custody. As we head into colder months, Officer Zander emphasized that you should never leave your car unattended while running, no matter how quickly you think you'll return.

Alderman Nugent congratulated the 17th District for resolving the Amber Alert. Her office is open but some staff are working remotely. The 39th Ward Participatory Budget projects are being selected. Ald. Nugent is working with the Mayor's Office, OEMC and the City's Safety Office to secure needed resources. Report graffiti and street lights that are out.

Ald. Rosana Rodriguez reported that the camera at Irving Park and Kimball needs to be brought on line. Jessica Vazquez from Ald. Rosa's office reported that their office is open, but it is best to call ahead.

Officer Zander ended the meeting by reporting that 6 individuals have been taken off the streets this month and that shootings are trending downward. Sgt. Iza

Continued on page 6

*Wishing You and Your Family
Happy Holidays
and a Season filled with
Peace and Joy.*



Dorie Westmeyer
Realtor®, MBA, ADPR
Your Neighborhood Realtor

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News From Irving Park Community Food Pantry

By Craig Shutt

Help Pantry Clients Celebrate the Holidays

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry is providing its clients with a full holiday meal this month, including meat, stuffing, vegetables, potatoes and desserts. This is in addition to its regular array of groceries during our four distributions this month (we are closed December 23rd and 30th). This year, we are asking for monetary donations rather than direct food contributions.

We can purchase food at great discounts (approximately 4 cents per pound) from the Greater Chicago Food Depository, but shortages have forced us this year to use a variety of sources. That has increased our costs to purchase the needed food. At the same time, restrictions due to virus protocols make it more difficult for groups to hold food drives while barriers to access make it more difficult for the Pantry to receive food drives.

If you would like to donate, please use the secure PayPal link at www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org or send a check to Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago

IL 60618. We appreciate your help in brightening the holiday season for so many in our neighborhood!

The Pantry is working with Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge on a pilot program to introduce a hospital-based food pantry for discharged patients who need food to get back on their feet after their hospital stay. The Pantry is providing the hospital with 20 bags of various foods, which will be replenished as needed for six months during the evaluation period.

Thank you to the congregation of St. Viator Church for making one of their regular food donations to the Pantry in October. Thanks also to the congregation of Park Ridge Presbyterian Church for delivering food from an October food drive, arranged in advance.

Teacher Frank Kadri at Prussing Elementary School brought his class to the Pantry via Zoom in October. The students learned techniques for making face masks and used materials at hand to create a handful apiece for volunteers. Frank brought in the donation and his class received a tour (via his laptop).

Thank you to everyone for helping us meet our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"

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News and Events from Carlson Community Services



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.



21 teams competed in Carlson's Virtual Trivia Night. Good fun for a good cause!

Virtual Trivia Night Results In!

Congratulations to "Oh Snap!" on winning Carlson Community Services' 14th Trivia Night and 1st ever virtual event. Pat & Greg Morin led their team to a two-point victory over 20 other teams in a tight contest. When awarded their \$200 prize, the team generously donated their winnings back to Carlson. The bragging rights and glory remain theirs! Perennial second place winners "The Quad," captained by Pam Austin, vowed to claim victory next time.

While we missed being together in our usual venue, a virtual good time was had by all. Through the magic of Zoom technology, each team gathered in a break out room to discuss their quiz answers and socialize. Thanks to organizers Helen Lira, Melanie Zech, Maria Dimond and Jennifer O'Grady for their help, and to Elena O'Grady for serving as the quiz grader and scorekeeper.

Round sponsors Wintrust Bank, Free Range Insurance and the Carlson Board & Committees helped to make the event a financial success. \$6,500 was raised for Carlson's after-school program, community garden and concert series. During a year when our fundraising ability has been diminished sharply, the money raised at Virtual Trivia Night will help Carlson manage through these challenging times.

Flash Food Drive Delivers Diapers and Groceries to Food Pantry

Carlson Community Services kicked off the season of giving with a flash food and diaper drive in November for our partners at the Irving Park Food Pantry.

Thanks to the generosity of Irving Park Lutheran Church members and Carlson contributors, 90 bags of groceries and diapers were collected in one day and delivered to the Food Pantry. Volunteers who loaded up the cars and made the delivery were Elmer, Rebecca and Jack Haneberg, Kirsten Gettings and Jack Mills.



Volunteers delivered proceeds of Carlson's Flash Food Drive to the Food Pantry. Pictured are: Jack Haneberg, Kirsten Gettings, Liz Mills and Rebecca Haneberg.

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents the Max Bessesen Trio

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is excited to present A Jazz Christmas with the Max Bessesen Trio, featuring Alyssa Allgood. The concert will be recorded in the Irving Park Lutheran Church sanctuary and will be available on Carlson's YouTube channel beginning December 13th. The performance will feature traditional holiday tunes, jazz standards and original compositions. The trio is led by Independence Park resident and saxophonist Max Bessesen. He'll be joined by Bobby Broom, guitar, Dennis Carroll, bass and vocalist Alyssa Allgood. The experience will be just like our annual Christmas concert, but you can enjoy it from the safety of your home!

Staff of the Magic After-School Place continue to evaluate ways to support our students and families during remote learning, and in a special way at the holidays. We look forward to resuming the program when CPS returns to in-person learning, scheduled for early February.

Carlson Community Services connects the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. For more information, visit carlsoncommunityservices.org or contact Liz Mills at 773-398-6766 or lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org.



The Max Bessesen Trio and Alyssa Allgood will perform in the Fine Arts Series' A Jazz Christmas. You'll find a video of the concert on Carlson's YouTube channel beginning December 13.



St. Edward School

We are all grateful for our teachers and staff who continue to maintain the safety and well-being of our students.

One of the gems of St. Edward School is our art program lead by Ann Marie Greenberg. The students are practicing the Studio Habits of Mind in our choice-based studio. They are working with different materials such as paint, oil pastels, and colored pencils. The students experiment, play and best of all have fun!

St. Ed's Boy Scout Troop 904 has its **Spaghetti Dinner To Go the weekend of December 12 and 13**. Proceeds will allow our scouts to purchase new tents and attend summer camp next year. Order online at: jotform.com/awayers/spaghetti to support the troops.

Orders may be picked up in front of St. Edward's Springfield Dominican Learning Center, 4447 N. Lowell. Scouts will be on hand to bring your order to your car during: Saturday, December 12 from 4-7 pm OR Sunday, December 13 from 8:30 am-12:30 pm

Additionally, there is contactless delivery for Seniors who reside within 2 miles of the St. Edward campus. Deliveries will be made Sunday afternoon, December 13.

Support local establishments while at the same time raise money for our wonderful St. Edward teacher bonuses! Just mention St. Edward School when you dine and/or shop at a variety of local businesses throughout the month! View the calendar for specific dates and times on St. Edward School's website: stedwardchicago.org/community-days.html

Interested in learning more about our 2017 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School? Take our virtual school tour at: youtu.be/cMlMJMjo0Ik

You can also arrange for an individual school tour by calling the office at 773-736-9133 to explore our campus and learn more about our outstanding academic programs and extended care.

St. Edward School celebrates 111 years of providing a Catholic education to children in grades PK3 – 8th grade. For more information, please visit our website at stedwardschool.com.

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Continued from page 4

responded to a question about shot spotters in the district. There is one in the 17th but it's privately owned and it's not controlled by CPD. A question was asked about shots fired at Springfield and Berteau on October 12th at 6:00 p.m. There was no report of the incident generated because no shell casings were found.

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. The next meeting will be on December 16th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Email CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org for an invitation. Remember to always lock your vehicle, never leave it running unattended and be on the lookout for scams involving Covid-19 cures and scams related to income tax refunds. Remember, the IRS will never call you on the phone.

Liz Mills
CAPS Volunteer

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