

# WESTWALKER ——WIRE——

### FEBRUARY 2010

www.westwalker.org

### Shake Off the Winter Blues with the Fourth Annual Winter Social

### New Venue!

Take a break from shoveling and shivering with a night of fun at the West

Walker Winter Social! Join your friends and neighbors Saturday, February 27 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Chief O'Neill's Attic, the Chief's cozy, private upstairs enclave.

Chief O'Neill's is located at 3471 N. Elston, just a hop, skip, or a short cab ride away from West Walker. Tickets are \$12 for WWCA members and \$17 for non-members. For the price of admission, Social guests will enjoy an appetizer buffet and three hours of unlimited mingling. Guests can also purchase a ticket for a drawing for great prizes. There will be a cash bar.



West Walker's fourth annual Winter Social will be held at Chief O'Neill's Attic.

RSVP by February 23 to Cindi Webber

at 773.539.8346 or webber.cindi@gmail.com. Space is limited, so RSVP today!

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### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

REMINDER: No February meeting. See you March 16 at the next WWCA General Meeting!

**February 20 ● 10 a.m.** Performing Arts Series, "Charlotte's Web" Irving Park Lutheran Church 4100 N. Harding Ave.

**February 22 • 9 a.m.** Chicago Park District Spring 2010 Program online registration begins

**February 27 • 7-10 p.m.** 4th Annual West Walker Winter Social Chief O'Neill's Attic, 3471 N. Elston Ave.

February 28 • 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Home Improvement Business Fair St. Edward's Church, 4343 W. Sunnyside

**February 28 • 12 p.m.** Movie Club, *Traces of the Trade, A Story from the Deep North* St. John's Episcopal Church 3857 N. Kostner Ave.

March 6 • 2 p.m. Camp Half Blood Orientation Meeting (for fans of the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series by Rick Riordan) Independence Park Branch Library 3548 W. Irving Park Road

March 7 • 5-7 p.m. Chili Supper to benefit Three Bros. Garden Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym 4057 N. Harding Ave.

March 10 • 6:30 p.m. Movie Club, *The Mission* St. John's Episcopal Church 3857 N. Kostner Ave.

March 13 • 11 a.m. String Quintet by the Chicago Symphony's Civic Orchestra MusicCorps North Park Village Nature Center 5801 N. Pulaski Road

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

# Dear Neighbor,

TIME TO SHAKE OFF WINTER. Punxsutawney Phil did. Back on February 2. Shadow or not, Phil was roused from a long winter's nap and just can't go back to sleep. A groundhog doesn't have a lot of options for nightlife. Or day life, for that matter. Just like the groundhog, the passing of the dead of winter is time for us to get out of the burrow and start the new year, because before you know it, spring will be here and we will all be too busy cleaning and pruning and planting to even say "Hi" to the neighbors.

Unlike other burrowing mammals, we have a lot of opportunities to get out and meet the neighbors, even before it is nice enough to walk around the neighborhood. In fact, West Walker has an event coming up this month that is the perfect opportunity to relax and catch up with friends and neighbors, new and old. On Saturday, February 27 the West Walker Winter Social will be held at Chief O'Neill's from 7 to 10 p.m. This is our fourth year of this event, and it gets better every year. It's guaranteed fun, food, prizes, and, for some reason, lots of snow.

Please come if you can. All the information is here in the *Wire*. This is a great opportunity to get out and spend time with people in the neighborhood. Bring along a friend who's on the fence, too.

So come on out. Stay late if you want. Chief O'Neill won't mind. Even though we've always had snow, I'm hoping for a clear night. There's a full moon on the 28th, and when I step outside after midnight, it will be high in the sky. I wonder if I will see my shadow?

Mike Webber WWCA President

### At the March WWCA Meeting ...

**D**<sup>r.</sup> Greg Petersen, a health psychologist with Swedish Covenant Hospital, will speak at the March 16 WWCA General Meeting. He will discuss stress reduction tips, including how your mood is affected by the foods you eat and the benefits of a good night's sleep.

### Walk with the Wire!

The WWCA is in need of volunteers to deliver the *West Walker Wire* every month between September and June. The Central Park route is currently in need of a carrier. Substitutes are needed, too. Interested? Contact Liz Mills at lizmills@sbcglobal.net.



#### 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 97 years of service to the West Walker Community

#### 2009-2010 OFFICERS

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### EDITOR

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.

For information on advertising, please contact Julie Capps at Julie.capps@ sothebysrealty.com.

### News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

### Holiday Distributions, A Community Success Story

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry's annual December holiday distribution on December 16 was a success, thanks to all of the donations of money, food, and volunteers from the community. The Pantry provided all of the ingredients for a full holiday meal to 371 households representing more than 1,300 people. In addition, 353 children received Christmas presents of games, books, dolls, toys, and other fun gifts.

Seventy-six volunteers helped set up and distribute food and toys. Special thanks to the Toys for Kids Committee– Barb Cohn, Vicci Rodgers, and Molly Melick–who organized and publicized the event and collected toys. Eight volunteers from Allstate assisted in the toy room.

Thanks also go to Jewel Food Stores at Six Corners. In addition to the usual food donations, the store provided 20 full holiday meals for clients.

A television crew from WTTW's *Chicago Tonight* spent that morning at the Pantry filming for a story on the Express Stamps Program.

Many organizations held food drives for the Pantry during the holiday season. Thanks go to: Carter Westminster Church, Chicago International Charter Schools-Irving Park Branch, Discover Card, Community Savings Bank, Disney II Magnet School, Grover Cleveland Elementary School, Irving Park Lutheran Church, Kid Watch, Lane Tech High School, Mather High School, Mt. Olive Community Canvas, Our Lady of Resurrection Medical Center, St. Patrick's High School, St. Viator's Elementary School, Terraces of Old Irving Park, and UNITE Civic Organization.

Thanks to the Old Irving Park Association, the 19th Police District, and Lane Tech for collecting toys and books, and to Disney II Magnet School for their Winter Accessories Drive Contest. Mrs. Maria Schnaufer's first-grade class won.

The Pantry is grateful to Pastor Vickie Hadaway, her staff, parishioners, and volunteers of Irving Park Methodist for their help in making the holiday distributions a success.

### **Other News**

**January Coat Drive:** The Pantry distributed 225 coats and hundreds of gloves, hats, and scarves in the first two weeks of January. Special thanks to Carter Westminster Church in Skokie for their coat collections.





Children celebrate the holidays at the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. Barb Cohn, Vicci Rodgers, and Nora Byrne (left) help out in the Pantry's Christmas Toy Room.

**Statistics:** Totals for 2009 show that the need for the pantry in our community—serving only those in ZIP codes 60614 and part of 60618—continues to grow. The Pantry is serving 42 percent more clients than in 2007. We couldn't continue to help this growing number of people without so much support from the West Walker community!

### **Volunteers Needed**

The Pantry has a great need for bilingual volunteers (Spanish and Polish). The Pantry is also planning an event to commemorate its 25th year. If you have event-planning experience you'd like to share, please contact Kate Roche at kate.roche@sbcglobal.net.

### **Upcoming Events**

For the 12th year, the Feinstein Foundation Challenge will divide \$1 million among anti-hunger agencies nationwide. Your contributions to the Pantry between March 1 and April 30 will increase the amount that Feinstein donates. You can send checks to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, 3801 N. Keeler Ave., Chicago, IL, 60641, or use our secure website at www.irvingparkfoodpantry.com.

The Pantry and its volunteers are gearing up for the 25th Annual Hunger Walk on June 26. Volunteers will be soliciting pledges for the walk. Last year, more than 5,000 people walked the 2.5 miles at Montrose Harbor. The program benefits all of the member agencies of the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

## **CAPS** Report

### by Pam Austin

REPRESENTATIVES FROM the city Section 8 Housing Department gave a brief presentation and answered questions from the community about the program. The following are facts about Section 8:

 $\cdot$  The Housing Choice Voucher System (Section 8) is 100 percent federally funded by Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

 $\cdot$  A rent subsidy is paid to landlords of Section 8 participants based on their income. Participants also pay a portion of the rent.

 $\cdot$  Each Section property is inspected once a year and prior to a new family moving in

• Investigations of tenants and properties are done when a complaint is made, especially if the tenants are not maintaining the standards of the community or a crime has been committed on the property.

• There are 35,000 households that benefit from Section 8 in Chicago, and 17,000 landlords participate in the program.

• There is not a concentration of Section 8 housing in any one particular part of the city, and families are encouraged to consider a wide variety of neighborhoods.

All of the old business addressed at the meeting was outside the West Walker area. The only issue brought up in our neighborhood was related to the restaurant/bar Boem on Montrose and Harding. Many neighbors have complained about patrons parking on their street and causing a disturbance when they leave late at night, often waking up residents in the immediate area. The owners were present and assured people that they had increased

### Have a CAPS issue?

You can submit concerns to CAPS online at *https://portal.chicagopolice.org/portal/page/portal/ClearPath*. Then, on the left-hand side, click "Report a concern about an issue affecting your neighborhood."

their security to address the neighborhood complaints. Officers suggested that the owners give out a phone number for residents to call when they have complaints, especially late at night.

The next CAPS meeting, Wednesday, March 24 at 7 p.m. at Salvation Army Headquarters (5020 N. Pulaski), will be a Town Hall meeting with the commander and will be a state-of-the-district report for all nine beats in the 17th District.

Statistics by type of crime in the West Walker neighborhood (Dec. 16, 2009 – Jan. 20, 2010):

Domestic battery	4
Motor vehicle theft	2
Theft \$300 and under	2
Battery	2
Criminal damage to vehicle	2
Theft \$300 and over	2
Criminal trespass to vehicle	1
Criminal damage to property	1
Robbery	1
Theft from building	1
Harassment	l

### West Walker Wire Advertising Rates

	Business Card - \$15/month	#months	Total \$
	(Must purchase a three-month minimum	ı)	
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- ALL AD ARTWORK is due a week before the first of the month. Highresolution 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: Julie.capps@sothebysrealty.com.

Send all ad copy and payments (and any ad questions) to: Julie Capps 4203 N. Harding, Chicago, IL 60618 Julie.capps@sothebysrealty.com

# 39th Ward Report



Dear Neighbors:

It might not seem like it now but spring is just around the corner, at least for the Chicago Department of Forestry. They are now taking requests for tree planting. If you would like a tree planted in the parkway in front of your home,

please contact my public service office at 773.736.5594. Tree planting in the parkway is a free service offered by the City of Chicago. Requests are taken on a first come, first served basis.

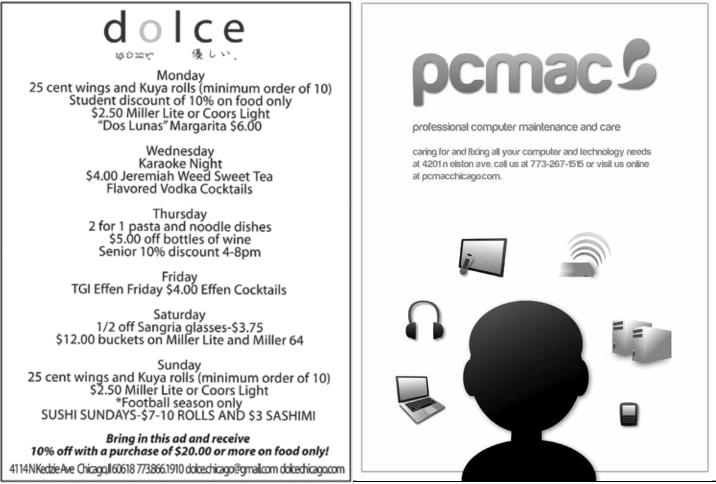
The Chicago Symphony's Civic Orchestra MusicCorps Program is conducting a free concert series at the North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski. These interactive and educational performances are a great way to introduce your family to the four instrument families of the orchestra. Families with children ages 5 and up are encouraged to attend. All concerts are held on Saturdays and begin at 11 a.m. The schedule is: February 6, Woodwind Quintet March 13, String Quintet April 17, Brass Quintet May 15, Percussion Ensemble

Looking for a part-time job? If so, consider working for the **2010 Census Team**. The U.S. Census Bureau is actively recruiting people to join their team. For more details, please visit www.2010censusjobs.gov or call the local Chicago office at 773.355.5810.

The intersection of Peterson and Pulaski is finally open following installation of a new sewer main and associated structures. I know that this project inconvenienced many 39th Ward residents, including those living in West Walker who use Pulaski for northbound traffic, and I appreciated your patience during this construction process.

As always, please feel free to contact my office at 773.736.5594 or Ward39@cityofchicago.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward



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### **Update from Springfield**

ON JANUARY 12, I returned to Springfield ready to get to work. The budget, tax relief for property owners, jobs, health care, and improved opportunities for young people are top priorities for me this session. I am also working to reinstate the 7% Expanded Homeowners Exemption legislation, and I am looking into ways to further protect young people from sex offenders.

I hope you will attend my community advisory meetings in April. These meetings are a great chance to share your point of view on pressing issues in the neighborhood. Also, applications for the 2010 General Assembly scholarship are available on my website at http://debmell. org. [See page 9 for more details.] Please help me spread the word-this is an excellent opportunity for students.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards, Deborah Mell, deb@debmell.org

### SPACE NEEDED

Local artist Jackie Kazarian is looking for free work space for 6 months to create large paintings for a summer show at the Chicago Cultural Center.

Contact Jackie at 773-294-9464 or jk@jackiekazarian.net.

	FAMILY \$10	BUSINESS \$15	SENIOR \$5
NAME:			
(Please print. Write yo	our name as you would lik	e it to appear in the West Walker	Wire.)
ADDRESS:			
PHONE:			
Please note your e-ma	ail address if you would lil	ke to receive e-mail updates:	

### The Benefits of Greenscaping

EVERYONE LIKES to have a nice yard to hang out in when the warm weather is here. Although I'm trying to reduce the amount of lawn I have in order to make room for edible or beneficial plants and herbs, most folks like to have at least a small piece of lawn.

We may still have snow on the ground, but I'm already working on my spring yard projects. By taking care of



lawns and gardens properly, we can save money, time, and also help the environment.

Greenscaping is a method of landscaping that can

improve the health and appearance of your lawn and garden while protecting and preserving natural resources.

- $\cdot$  You can save money by reducing water and chemical needs.
- $\cdot$  You can save time by using plants that require less care.
- $\cdot$  You can reduce yard waste by converting it into mulch or compost.

In nature, soil breaks down dead plant material into nutrients, which then can be used to feed new plant growth and also benefit many vital soil organisms. At the same time, some plants are naturally adapted to a particular area, which means they need less watering, less maintenance, less fertilizer, and are generally healthier.

Finding a home for a wide variety of healthy plants, healthy soil, and beneficial insects can keep gardens pestand disease-free. This can be done by both homeowners and commercial property owners.

By working with nature, you can have a great-looking yard that's easier to care for, cheaper to maintain, and healthier for you, your family, your pets, and the environment.

*by Michelle Kaicener* mkaicener@earthlink.net

### Website of the month:

http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/rrr/greenscapes/ index.htm



### News and Events from Irving Park Carlson Ministries

### Chili Supper to Benefit Carlson Community Garden on March 7

A Chili Supper to benefit the Three Brothers Garden will be held Sunday, March 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gymnasium, 4057 N. Harding Ave. Local professional chef **Ed Gardner** and master gardener **Sarah Steedman** will be serving up vegetarian and beef chili, corn bread, and salad. Beverages and delicious desserts will be available for an additional charge. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and \$5 for kids 3-12; kids under 3 are free.

Kids can enjoy free entertainment and a craft table, so



bring the whole family! Tickets for great drawing prizes can be purchased at the event.

All funds raised at the supper will be used to plant and maintain the Three Brothers Garden, located at 4107 N. Pulaski Rd. Produce grown in the garden is donated to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. In 2009, 576 pounds of vegetables were distributed to pantry clients. The garden is a partnership between

Irving Park Carlson Ministries and Irving Park Lutheran Church.

If you'd like to learn more about the project, volunteer to work in the garden, or donate a drawing item or baked good to the Chili Supper, please contact Liz Mills at 773.398.6766 or lizmills@sbcglobal.net.

### Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents "Charlotte's Web, The Musical"

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee will present a musical adaptation of *Charlotte's Web* on Saturday, February 20 at 10 a.m. Based on the beloved children's classic by E.B. White, the story of an unusual friendship between a pig and a spider will charm children of every age.



American Eagle Productions will perform "Charlotte's Web, The Musical" at the Irving Park Lutheran Church on February 20.

American Eagle Productions, a Chicago-based theatre group specializing in children's classics, will bring the story of Charlotte, Wilbur, and Fern to life with song, dance, costumes, and sets.

The performance will be held at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. The show is free of charge, but donations will be accepted. A milk and cookie reception with the actors follows the performance.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Series, now in its 16th season, was begun by Roger L. Bingaman, director of music at Irving Park Lutheran Church. The intent of the series is to bring high quality, professional musical and theatrical events to the Irving Park neighborhood.

The final concert of the Fine Arts season will be held on Sunday, April 25 at 2 p.m., featuring pianist Amy Briggs and a gathering of chamber musicians. The concert will include the presentation of the Virginia McBroom Sekenske scholarship to a deserving Schurz High School music student.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee receives funding from Irving Park Carlson Ministries, a community service 501c3. The mission of Carlson Ministries is to serve the community with a variety of outreach efforts, including fine arts. For more information, contact Liz Mills at 773.398.6766 or lizmills@sbcglobal.net.

### PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS! Let them know you saw them in the *West Walker Wire*.

### 2010 General Assembly Scholarship Now Available

REPRESENTATIVE Deborah L. Mell announced the opening of the application process for the 2010-2011 General Assembly Scholarship. Applications are available online and are due Friday, April 9.

"Education is the best investment young people can make in their future," said Rep. Mell. "The General Assembly Scholarship makes higher education accessible to more people in the district, especially those in need. I invite anyone who is eligible to apply."

Each year, Rep. Mell offers college-bound students who reside in the 40th District a one-year scholarship to an Illinois state public university. The scholarship, made possible by the Illinois State Board of Education, provides a full tuition waiver for the entire school year, including summer classes. The scholarship does not include room, board, or fees.

State law requires that all recipients of the 40th Representative District scholarship reside, and continue to reside, within the boundaries of the district for the term of the scholarship awarded. Please confirm that you live in the 40th Representative District by going to the Illinois State Board of Elections website at www. elections.state.il.us or by calling the district office at 773.267.2880.

All applications are reviewed by Representative Mell's Legislative Scholarship Committee, which is made up of teachers, school board members, and community leaders. This group of volunteers makes its decision independently and makes the awards based on the following criteria:

- · academic achievement;
- · relative financial need;
- $\cdot$  community service and/or extracurricular activities;
- · essay on educational goals;
- $\cdot$  demonstrated need for the scholarship.

For more information, or to download an application, please visit http://debmell.org.

Jesus said,

#### The words which I have spoken to you are



John 6:63

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

Chicago Bibles & Books

3931 W. Irving Park Rd. Monday to Saturday 10-6 773.478.0550 www.biblesandbooks.com 25% discount on any Bible when you bring in this ad

### 4th Annual Ultimate Home Improvement Business Fair Sunday, February 28, 2010 8:30am to 12:30pm St. Edward's Church

4343 W. Sunnyside Ave., Chicago



This 4th Annual Event is co-sponsored by Alderman Margaret Laurino, Alderman Patrick Levar and the Pulaski Elston Business Association.

- Meet area business owners
- Learn about home improvement products and services
- Receive community and government agency information
- Enjoy tasty refreshments
- Participate in free raffle drawings
- Giveaways from over 30 vendors
- Receive energy saving tips
- Receive free blue bags
- Receive free Home Depot vouchers from the Dept. of Environment
- Historic Bungalow Association presentation

Please visit this interesting and informative home improvement business fair following Sunday masses on February 28<sup>th</sup> in the lower church.

This event is hosted with the support of the Chicago Department of Community Development.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE PULASKI ELSTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION OFFICE AT 773-545-0941



### CICS-Irving Park School News

Open House

Chicago International Charter School–Irving Park is holding an open house

for prospective parents on Wednesday, February 24 from 5 to 6 p.m. The elementary school, located at Spaulding and Grace, is accepting applications for the 2010-11 school year for children entering kindergarten through seventh grades. Administration, teachers, and parents will be present. For more information, contact Ass. Director Janet Zaccariello at 773.433.5002 or e-mail: jzaccariello@ victoryschools.org.

### Thank You!

Thanks to Chicken Works & Salad Co. on Elston Avenue for providing our teachers with a delicious dinner on their recent math night. It was greatly appreciated!

### **Disney II Magnet School News**

Disney is hoping our neighbors have noticed a significant improvement in the traffic flow around the school during drop-off and pick-up times. We would like to thank all of our traffic volunteers for their smooth and successful plan implementation. If you have been wanting to get involved with the school, here is an opportunity; community members are encouraged to join the Traffic Volunteer Team! Please call the office at 773.534.3750.

Please visit www.cpsoae.org for information on the new magnet school admission policy. To get a glimpse inside the world of Disney II, please join us at the monthly PTA General Meeting and Saturday Parent Academy beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 20. Interested parents can also schedule a school tour by calling 773.534.3750.

Mark your calendars now for the second annual ABC Auction! The ABC Auction will be held at Irving Park Garden Terrace at 7 p.m. on March 6. Do you have a service or item to donate to the ABC Auction? We're accepting donations through February 24. Contact Allison Mutlu at allisonmutlu@sbcglobal.net today!

### **St. Edward School News**

### **Big Red Auction**

Many exciting prizes will be on the live and silent auction block at St. Edward's annual "Big Red Auction." Each year proceeds from the auction will help St. Edward School continue its commitment to providing a quality Catholic education to area children.

The gala will be held on Saturday, March 20 from 6 p.m. until Midnight in Buckley Hall at 4343 W. Sunnyside Avenue. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. For more information, call the school at 773.736.9133.

### Happenings at St. Viator

### Nine Students Named Illinois State Scholars

Congratulations to the following graduates of St. Viator's class of 2006 for being selected as an Illinois State Scholar. This award is given to high school seniors who rank in the top 10 percent of their class and have achieved high scores on their ACT, SAT, or Prairie State Achievement tests. They are: Ellen Anderson, Jazmin Carranza, Jonathan Diaz, Robin Fritz, Holly Giersch, Kyli Herzberg, Mario Martinez, Adam Seablom, and Edward Stypka.

### Girls on the Run

St. Viator has been chosen as one of the sites for Girls on the Run, life-changing, experiential learning programs for girls age 8 to 13 years old. The program combines training for a 3.1-mile running event with self-esteem enhancing, uplifting workouts. The goal of the program is to encourage positive emotional, social, mental, spiritual, and physical development.

### St. Viator Is a Big Shoulders School

The mission of the Big Shoulders Fund is to provide support to a selection of Catholic schools in Chicago. Big Shoulders Fund-supported schools enroll 25,000 students in 76 elementary schools and 17 high schools in the city of Chicago. A full 100 percent of the funds raised by the Big Shoulders Fund are used to support children through scholarships, special education programs, instructional equipment, school facility improvements, faculty support, and operating grants.

### 'Til Death Do Us Part – Late Nite Catechism 3

Theater returns on Saturday, April 24 to St. Viator. Doors open at 6 p.m. for cocktails and light appetizers. The performance will begin at 7 p.m. Ticket prices (age 21 and older): \$50 VIP reserved table seating; \$35 chair seating; \$25 chair seating (seniors 62 and older). Get your neighbors together and purchase a VIP table for eight! We hope you can join in the fun!

For information on St. Viator Elementary School, please visit www.stviatorchicago.org, and for information on St. Viator Parish, please visit www.stviatorparish.org.

Hot Woks



# Thanks to West Walker for supporting

3930 N. Pulaski Road 773-282-1818

- ~Experience the Flavor
- ~Experience the Difference
- ~Experience Hot Woks Cool Sushi



We're celebrating our first anniversary by opening a second location at:

30 S. Michigan Ave. (across from Millennium Park)

# ... and it all started here in West Walker!

