

# WESTWALKER WIRE-

**JANUARY 2010** 

www.westwalker.org

# **West Walker Residents Gather** for Holiday Entertainment and Cheer

AN ENTHUSIASTIC GROUP of West Walker residents and guests celebrated

the holidays at the December WWCA meeting. The evening featured a short business meeting, entertainment by West Walker junior musicians, and door prize drawings. Thanks to Mary, Julia, Augustine, and Gabriel, the talented musicians who provided the entertainment.

Door prizes were provided by Representative Deborah Mell, LaVilla Restaurant. PCMAC. McNamara's Restaurant. and the **Barry** and **Webber** families. Thank you for your generous donations! And thanks to Carol Barry for organizing the celebration.



Young musicians perform at the December WWCA holiday party. For more party photos, please turn to page 3.

The West Walker Civic Association officers and Board wish you and yours good health and happiness in 2010!

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

#### January 12 - February 7

"The Exonerated" (see article on page 9) La Costa Theatre Company 3931 N. Elston

#### January 17 • 1-2:30 p.m.

Winter Walk (please register ahead at 312-744-5472) North Park Village Nature Center 5801 N. Pulaski Road

#### January 18 • 12-1:30 p.m.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Open Skate McFetridge Sports Center 3843 N. California Ave.

#### January 20 ● 7 p.m.

Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting 17 District Police Station Community Room 4650 N. Pulaski Road

#### January 30 • 1-2:30 p.m.

"On the Right Track" (please register ahead at 312-744-5472) North Park Village Nature Center 5801 N. Pulaski Road

#### February 20 • 10 a.m.

Performing Arts Series, "Charlotte's Web" Irving Park Lutheran Church (see article on page 4)

4100 N. Harding Ave.

#### February 22 ● 9 a.m.

Chicago Park District Spring 2010 Program online registration begins

#### February 27

4th Annual West Walker Winter Social Location to be announced

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



# Dear Neighbor,

I WOULD LIKE to extend a greeting and hopes of a happy New Year to all. The New Year is often a time of reflection as well as a time to imagine self improvement and envision a better future and world.

Resolutions are often viewed as a once-a-year activity. But personal experience (as well as some research) shows that resolve isn't really influenced by the calendar. We should all strive to take the time to identify things that will make our lives, or the lives of those around us, a little better. It doesn't have to be earth-shaking or life-changing. It doesn't have to start on January 1. It may not even become apparent until spring or summer. But when you find yourself saying, "Wouldn't it be nice if . . . ," take the time to see if there is some little thing you could do to nudge things in a better direction. Everyone sees things differently, and not everyone will act to make the same change. But a lot of people making many little improvements will make things better for everyone.

Here are a few resolutions I hope to see:

- · Commit random acts of kindness.
- · Hold that door.
- · Say "please" and "thank you" more often.
- · Drive slower.
- · Give a little back.
- · Pick up some rubbish, even if it's not yours.
- · Make eye contact.
- · Say "hello" to people, both neighbors and strangers.
- · Take better care of yourself.
- · Walk, don't drive.
- · Vote.
- · Help those less fortunate.
- · Put down the cell phone.
- · Think green.

There are hundreds of ways to make our lives and neighborhood a richer and better experience. Find one that's right for you, and we will all benefit.

Mike Webber WWCA President

## **Save the Date for the Winter Social!**

Annual West Walker Winter Social! Why wait for the spring thaw to reconnect with your neighbors? Check the February *Wire* for details about location and ticket information.

# WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

#### West Walker Mission Statement

"The pursuit of the West Walker Civic Association is to make our diverse neighborhood the best it can be by securing the services, safeguards and improvements the West Walker community is entitled to have."

Celebrating more than 97 years of service to the West Walker Community

#### 2009-2010 OFFICERS

President Mike Webber

539-8346

Vice President Davor Engel

Secretary Carol Barry 478-5696

Treasurer John Minor

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# Pat & Marianne Turk **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.



# **WWCA General Meeting Minutes**

## From December 15, 2009

A very short business meeting was held. The meeting was called to order, and October minutes and treasurer's report were approved as presented in the November issue of the *Wire*.

The date for the winter social will be February 27, 2010. The location is still to be determined.

Members and neighbors are encouraged to attend the CAPS meeting or report incidents to our CAPS representatives, Pam Austin or Margaret McIntyre.

Visiting guests Joe Laiacona and State Rep. Deborah Mell were introduced. Questions about the status of our library were raised. There were leaks in the roof with water coming into the library. State Rep. Mell said that Independence Branch Library patron usage was so great that it warranted a 16,000-square-foot building. Mell also reported that \$500,000 was allocated for the library by the State of Illinois. She said she will look into the library and inform WWCA President Mike Webber of any new information.

Mell said she will also look into the lack of appropriate shelter and benches at the Old Irving Park Metra stop. She said that Tom Allen's 38th Ward might have information.

The meeting formally adjourned at 8:15 p.m., and the holiday party followed.







West Walker neighbors gather at the December WWCA meeting and holiday party. State Rep. Deborah Mell (above) talks with West Walker community members. Candidate for state rep. Joe Laiacona (left) reacts to residents' concerns.

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



## Chicago Property Tax Relief Program

THE CITY OF CHICAGO is providing rebates of \$25 to \$200 to homeowners hardest hit by increases in their 2008 property taxes. These rebates are designed to help Chicagoans make ends meet in these difficult times.

The rebates are for the homeowner's primary residence only. The amount of the grant is determined by the amount that taxes increased and the homeowner's income. Homeowners with incomes up to \$200,000 may qualify.

For more information, visit the city's Property Tax Relief website at http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/PropertyTaxReliefWeb/.

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

THE THIRD PERFORMANCE in the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee's 2009-2010 season will be a musical production based on the beloved children's classic *Charlotte's Web* by E. B White. Presented with the under-10 set in mind, the performance will be Saturday, February 20 at 10 a.m. at the Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. The performance will be free, but donations will be accepted gladly. The performance will be followed by a milk and cookie reception afterward.

For more information, contact Liz Mills at 773.398.6766 or lizmills@sbcglobal.net.

# Arts and Crafts Sale Raises Money for MAP

THE WEST WALKER Holiday Art Invitational, held on December 12 at the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym, offered for sale one-of-a-kind items by more than 15 artists

The brainchild of West Walker artist Sarah Steedman, the Holiday Art Invitational raised about \$1,500 for the Magic After-School Place (MAP). Proceeds from table sales and a drawing featuring the works of Invitational artists went to MAP, which provides area school children with safe passage from school to the program, homework help, a nutritious snack, and recreation.







The West Walker Holiday Art Invitational featured arts and crafts by more than 15 artists. Show organizer and artist Sarah Steedman (left) sets up her table of handcrafted whimsical creatures.

# WEST WALKER

# 39th Ward Report



Dear Neighbor,

I hope that everyone had a very happy holiday season. As you make your New Year's resolutions, keep in mind that the Chicago Park District, including Independence Park, has a variety of programs for everyone of all ages. Please contact them for

additional information.

The Chicago City Council recently passed the **Property Tax Relief Program** to provide assistance between \$25 and \$200 to city homeowners hit hardest by the 2008 property tax bill for their primary residence. The amount of tax relief you may receive is based on a combination of income level and the amount of your property tax increase.

The application deadline is March 31, 2010. You can find more information on the application process and download an application from the city's website at http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/PropertyTaxReliefWeb/. If you have further questions, please contact the Chicago

Tax Assistance Center by calling 312.744.1000 or via e-mail at ctac@cityofchicago.org.

Early voting for the 2010 primary election will be held Monday, January 11 through Thursday, January 28. The closest location to the West Walker community is the Administration Building at North Park Village, 5801 N. Pulaski. Voting hours at North Park Village are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. You can also early vote at the Chicago Board of Elections, 69 West Washington. They have extended hours on Sundays from 9 a.m. until noon.

Are you interested in having the latest updates about events, city programs, and 39th Ward news? Please consider joining my e-mail list. I send out periodic e-mails to share up-to-date information with 39th Ward constituents. Your e-mail address is safe and secure; we will never share or release your information. You can sign up for the 39th Ward e-mail news on the lower left of our website at www.Aldermanl.aurino.com.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my public service office at 773.736.5594 or e-mail us at Ward39@cityofchicago.org.

Sincerely, Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward

# PCMAC Opens Its Doors in West Walker

PCMAC, A FULL-SERVICE computer repair and retail store opened its doors to the public in late November. On the corner of Elston and Berteau Avenues, PCMAC has brought a comprehensive information technology solution center to the Northwest Side of Chicago. Many neighbors may recognize the space as the gallery for the Art In My Backyard exhibition in October.

PCMAC, an acronym for Professional Computer Maintenance and Care, has set out to fundamentally change the way information technology services are provided. After many years servicing the IT needs of Chicagoland businesses with L-Technology Enterprises, owner David Lasley opened PCMAC, this time focusing on the computing needs of the general public.

"It seems that as technology becomes more prevalent in our society, the level of service that technology companies provide their customers has decreased. We treat our customers as we would like to be treated, a very simple philosophy, but one that many large tech companies do not follow," said Lasley.

PCMAC will primarily focus on the computing needs of individuals and provide its customers a one-stop shop for all of their technology needs. Staffed by certified technicians, PCMAC will service, repair, and sell both Apple and PC computers and accessories.

PCMAC has also started an introductory computer training class for senior citizens and plans to expand its training courses to different audiences and subjects. For more information call 773.267.1515 or visit pcmacchicago.com.

Phone: 773-539-1200 Fax: 773-539-1482



4110 N. Elston Ave. Chicago, IL 60618 www.gardenchicago.com

PAUL, JACK & JEAN PRIKOS



#### **New Year's Green Resolutions**

I HOPE EVERYONE had a great holiday season and snow shoveling hasn't been too exhausting!

This is the time of year when one makes resolutions—to wean oneself off bad habits and try to learn new, healthy ones. Here's my top 10 list of green resolutions for 2010:

- 1. Weatherize, weatherize, weatherize! Insulate your home and save money on electricity and natural gas. Track your savings every month.
- 2. Walk, bike, or take the CTA, even if it's cold out. Dress up warm, get some exercise, and leave the car at home.
- 3. Shop local. Maybe you'll spend a few cents more, but you'll be helping a neighbor, and you won't be paying for gas or parking.
- 4. Learn a new skill: knitting, woodworking, bread making, pottery, stained glass. It's always good to be learning and having fun at the same time.
- 5. Cook more at home, and try and avoid processed foods and snacks. It's good to know where one's food comes from, and it's healthier.

- 6. Make a list of seeds and plants to order for the spring. Plan to add some edible perennials. Black currants, gooseberries, and strawberries don't need a lot of care and are great to eat.
- 7. Make a list of stores and service providers in the neighborhood that offer energy-efficiency products and services, and plan to support them
- 8. Visit the North Park Village Nature Center, early and often.
- 9. Start a journal and write down the names of all the animals you see in the garden, especially birds. I saw a peregrine falcon on my block just this week!
- 10. Participate in green events around the city, see films, and trade ideas. There's always something new to learn!

Wishing everyone well for the New Year!

by Michelle Kaicener greenwestwalker@gmail.com

**Website of the month:** "A Bird's Eye View of the Migratory Bird Route," http://egov.cityofchicago.org/Environment/BirdMigration/sub/main.html

# **WWCA Members**

Thanks for renewing or becoming members of WWCA! A list of those neighbors who have joined or renewed from November 30 through December 29, 2009 appears below:

Blits family (Garrett, Rosemary, and Jamie Marie) Farmers Market Dale and Conni Heminover McCarthy family Douglas Padian Iack and Sonia Prikos

WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  Yearly Membership Dues: Effective September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010			
Check one:	FAMILY \$10	BUSINESS \$15	SENIOR \$5
NAME:(Please print. Write your name as you would like it to appear in the West Walker Wire.)			
ADDRESS:			
PHONE:			 
Please note your e-mail address if you would like to receive e-mail updates:			
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# News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

#### Thank You!

The Pantry is grateful to the West Walker Community for the tremendous outpouring of support this season and throughout 2009. From monetary donations to food and toy drives to the helping hands of so many wonderful volunteers, we kept up with the ever-increasing amount of people needing help.

At our Thanksgiving and Christmas special distributions, we were able to provide every family and individual with bags of food with ingredients for their holiday dinners. At the December distribution, every child received a toy, a book, and stocking stuffers through our Holiday Toy Program. Thank you to everyone who helped make the holidays a little more special for our neighbors in need.

#### **Grants Help Pantry Expand Services**

As the Irving Park Community Food Pantry prepares for a new year serving the needy in the Old Irving Park neighborhood and surrounding communities, we are pleased and proud to be recipients of two significant grants this November from two foundations.

The first grant, for \$5,000, awarded by the FDC Foundation in Northbrook, Illinois, will fund a new program, "Fresh Produce for Better Health," created in cooperation with Family Fruit Market and Pantry board member Mike Mette, who supplies the Pantry with produce once a month.

Our partnership with Family Fruit Market at 4118 North Cicero Avenue enables the Pantry to purchase fresh, seasonal produce at reduced prices. With the funding from the FDC grant and support from Mike Mette, the Pantry will be better able to consistently provide nutritionally dense, fresh produce every week to our clients.

This program will also help reinforce the Pantry's nutrition seminars, held in cooperation with the University of Illinois Extension Service.

The second grant, for \$1,000, from the Neighborhood Service Program of the Edward M. Marx Foundation in New Albany, Ohio, provides aid to local community groups to improve their neighborhoods, and this grant specifically supported our annual Holiday Food Drive.

The Marx Foundation grant reached the Pantry through coordination with Gail Beitz, director of community affairs in the office of Alderman Margaret Laurino. Alderman Laurino nominated the Pantry to receive the grant. We are grateful to Mrs. Shirley C. Marx, president of the Edward M. Marx Foundation, and to Alderman Laurino and her staff for providing this much needed support.

These two monetary awards will help the Pantry meet its goal of ensuring every eligible client in the 60641 and 60618 ZIP codes receives a three-day supply of food to prepare nutritious, well-balanced meals each month.

#### Other News

PCMAC Chicago at 4201 N. Elston Avenue raised nearly \$1,600 for the Pantry with a unique fundraiser in November. Web developer and graphic artist Steve Weber claimed he could eat 50 tacos in eight hours, and he backed up his boast by putting his money (and tacos) where his mouth is! Jewel Events Catering donated the tacos (www.jeweleventscatering.com).

Donors pledged any amount per taco eaten, with proceeds going to the Pantry. PCMAC streamed the event live on the Internet (www.livestream.com/pcmac). A great time was had by all who cheered on Steve, and we are grateful for his fun event. But, please, don't try this at home!

Jesus said,

The words which I have spoken to you are

# SPIRIT and LIFE.

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



#### **Please Shovel Your Sidewalk**



# It's the Neighborly Thing to Do (It's Also the Law!)

Make Chicago safe for everyone by clearing snow and ice from the public sidewalk in front of your property.

We are all pedestrians at some point in the day, whether walking

to the bus, to the car, or to a neighborhood store. Without a wide, clear path, snow and ice on the sidewalk make it difficult for everyone—especially people with disabilities, seniors, and children—to walk safely.

Be a good neighbor and also clear sidewalks that are shared, but are not necessarily next to anyone's property such as pedestrian corners or the walk under the railroad viaducts.

Chicago Municipal Code, sections 4-4-310 and 10-8-180, specifies that both homes and businesses must clear snow from sidewalks next to their property. Thank you!

# dolce

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# Monday

25 cent wings & Kuya rolls (minimum order of 10) \$2.50 Miller Lite or Coors Light 10% Student discount on food only "Dos Lunas" Margaritas \$6.00

## Wednesday

\$4.00 Jeremiah Weed Sweet Tea Flavored Vodka Cocktails Karaoke Night

# Thursday

2 for 1 pasta & noodle dishes \$5.00 off bottles of wine

## Friday

TGI Effen Friday \$4.00 Effen Vodka Cocktails

# Saturday

1/2 off Sangria Glasses-\$3.75 \$12.00 buckets on Miller Lite and Miller 64

# Sunday

Sunday Brunch - \$5 \$2.50 Miller Lite or Coors Light SUSHI SUNDAYS-\$7-10 ROLLS

4114 N. Kedzie 773.866.1910 www.dolcechicago.com

## **Winter Parking Restrictions**

THE WINTER OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN on critical arterial streets has gone into effect. Signs for this seasonal restriction are permanently posted. Cars parked on critical arterial streets with a posted seasonal overnight restriction will be ticketed and towed between the hours of 3 a.m. and 7 a.m., whether or not there is snow on the ground. This ban is in effect until April 1. West Foster and North Kedzie Avenues are the only streets included in this ban in the 39th Ward.

Other arterial streets are considered snow routes. A separate seasonal parking ban may be activated during a heavy snow. On these designated "snow routes," parking may be prohibited when two or more inches of snow have fallen.

SEASONAL SING-ALONG—The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee's Sing-Along Messiah attracted more than 150 singers to the December 13 performance. Artistic director Roger Bingaman (top, center) conducted the orchestra, two choirs, and an enthusiastic audience.







# WEST WALKER

# La Costa Theatre Company Presents "The Exonerated"

LA COSTA THEATRE, located on the second floor of 3931 N. Elston, continues its season with "The Exonerated," the critically acclaimed play about the true stories of death row inmates falsely accused.

Culled from interviews, letters, transcripts, case files, and the public record, "The Exonerated," by Jessica Blank and Eric Jensen and directed by Sonia Alexandria, tells the true stories of six wrongfully convicted survivors of death row in their own words. The six interwoven stories paint a picture of an American criminal justice system gone wrong—and of six brave souls who persevered to survive it.

"The Exonerated" holds its previews on January 12 and 13 at 8 p.m. and continues its run through Sunday, February 7. Performances are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m., with two Saturday matinees on January 16 and January 23 at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Students and area residents will receive a \$5 discount. Tickets can be purchased at the door, through the La Costa website (www.lacostatheatre. com), or by calling TicketWeb at 866.468.3401.

La Costa has received critical acclaim for their productions of "The Last Five Years," "A New Brain," "Beasts on the Moon," and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." In 2006, La Costa Theatre Company was named "one the best new theatre troupes" by Chris Jones of the *Chicago Tribune*. The 100-plus seat theatre at 3931 N. Elston was opened in September of 2007.

#### Have a CAPS issue?

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





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Julie Capps, to our North Center office located at 3934 N Lincoln Ave.

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## CICS-Irving Park School News

Chicago International Charter School (CICS)-Irving Park Campus is a public charter school

located in the Irving Park neighborhood at Spaulding and Grace. The school opened its doors in August 2007 and has 415 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. We will add an additional grade each year until we reach full enrollment (approximately 560 students) for kindergarten through eighth.

#### Thank You!

Thanks to Rep. Deb Mell for arranging funds that, with our family involvement group (FIG) fundraising and other generous donations, allowed us to open a new school playground this year!

Thanks to Barry Sorkin and staff at Smoque BBQ for donating their tasty fare for our annual holiday teachers' luncheon!

#### **Open House**

On January 28, CICS-IP welcomes all parents interested in enrolling their children to attend our open house at 5 p.m. Come see what makes us a great choice for your child's future!

#### St. Edward School News

Happy New Year 2010! The St. Edward community hopes everyone had a wonderful holiday and would like to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

## **School Open House**

Discovery Sunday 2010 will be held on January 31 from 10:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The open house is a

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great opportunity to see the school and learn why its preschool through eighth-grade education program is one of the strongest on Chicago's Northwest Side. Visitors will meet faculty and students and learn about the school's superb values-oriented curriculum and its strong computer, after-school care, music and sports programs, and other extracurricular activities.

Discovery Sunday kicks off Catholic Schools Week and celebrates St. Edward's 100 years of providing quality education.

For more information, call the school at 773.736.9133.

## **Happenings at St. Viator**

#### Open House Saturday, January 30

Please join us at our open house on Saturday, January 30, 2010 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visit our classrooms and see for yourself the quality education and social experiences St. Viator has to offer your child. Immediately following the open house you may stay and join us for mass at 5 p.m. as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

## 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.

## **Fraction Pumpkin Bread**

In November our sixth-grade students had more than a normal math class—they baked "fraction pumpkin bread." Before the students could actually eat the bread they had to find the recipe by changing improper fractions to mixed numbers and by simplifying fractions. The sixth-grade class also had to find the right amount of each ingredient and triple the recipe so they would have enough ingredients for the whole class.

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



## Calling All Musicians to Summer Music Festival at Independence Park

THE INDEPENDENCE PARK Advisory Council is in the beginning stages of planning a music festival at



Independence Park this summer. The money raised will go toward more arts and music programs at the park. But we will need your help. Please come to the IPAC (Independence Park Advisory

Council) meeting on Thursday, January 14 at 7 p.m. in the Independence Park Field House, 3945 N. Springfield.

Committee chair Dan Gillogly is looking for four to six local bands to perform on the mainstage. The second stage will feature entertainment aimed specifically at youngsters.

Bands or entertainers who want to be considered for the festival can send their promotional material to Dan Gillogly at: 3826 N. Lawndale Ave., Chicago, IL 60618-4115, or e-mail: schedulingevents@glogleemusic.com.

Ideally we want to find local bands performing original music. We live in one of the most vibrant and culturally diverse cities on the planet. In our neighborhoods we have all types of world-class performers and musicians living, in many cases, right next door to us. Help us find them. Have them contact us.

Throughout the musical festival we'll also provide activities for the whole family, including a bean bag toss, Frisbee golf, stunts, athletic competitions, etc. We are looking for volunteers to assist in those activities as well.

We'll also be contacting local restaurants to set up food booths. If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please contact Linda Lehman at 773.732.2120.



We have a name for people that treat their dogs like their children. (Ustomer.

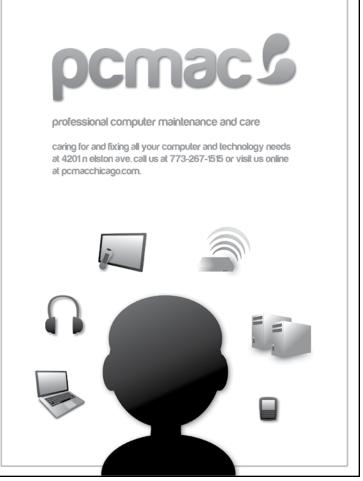
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Thanks to West Walker for supporting



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- ~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!