

WEST WALKER WIRE

FEBRUARY 2008

www.westwalker.org

Trends in Design – Part 2

Are you wondering about those larger scale design projects? Rehabbing your kitchen? Remodeling your bath? Or even considering putting on an addition? And then thinking, how do I get started? How long will it take? Can I afford it? And will it add value to my home?

Well to get answers to your questions, please join us at our February 19 meeting. Dan Schoendorff, Director of Sales & Marketing at Normandy Builders, will be our guest speaker. Normandy Builders was established in 1979 with the goal of creating a better kind of remodeling service. Their strategy combines the great skill of architects, builders and designers, with the use of quality products and excellent customer service. All from one resource. Normandy Builders will also help you finance the project!

Dan will share ideas on trends in remodeling. What looks are in for kitchens, baths, media rooms or even an addition to your home. Come join us on February 19th at 7:30 p.m. at the Latvian Hall, 4146 N. Elston, and see the amazing transformation of homes renovated by Normandy Builders.

Chase away the winter blues
at the WWCA Winter Social!

Saturday, February 23, 2008

See insert for more information

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February 16 – March 16

Special West Walker Night - March 9th!
LaCosta Theater Presents, "Stuck"
3931 N. Elston Ave. (see page 4 for info)

February 19 • 7:30 p.m.
WWCA General Meeting
Latvian Community Center
4146 N. Elston Ave.

February 20 • 7:00 p.m.
Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting
17th District Police Station,
Community Room - 4650 N. Pulaski

February 23 • 5:00 p.m.
Tapestry Center's Art and Music Series:
Black History Recital - Presented by
ACBC
3824 W. Irving Park Rd
www.tapestrycommunity.org

February 24 & March 16
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Park View Lutheran School Open House
3919 N. Monticello (see page 5)

February 25 & March 1st
Chicago Park District Registration for
Spring 2008 Programs
Feb. 25th - online / Mar. 1 - in person
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

March 1 • 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
IPAC Spaghetti Dinner
Independence Park Field House
(more details on page 5)

March 8 • 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Retro Dance Party and Silent Auction
St. Viator's - 4140 W. Addison
(more info on page 6)

March 9 • 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
3rd Annual Ultimate Home
Improvement Business Fair
St. Edward's Church
4343 W. Sunnyside Ave.
(see page 5 for information)

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

WITHIN THE WIRE...

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- Page 5** • Community Events
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- Page 7** • 39th Ward Report

Dear Neighbor:

It's February. It's cold. It's snowing (again). The kids have a day off school (again). Winter blues? More like winter black and blues!

My antidote? The Winter Social! Please join me, your friends and neighbors on Saturday, February 23rd at Gallery M, 4433 N. Elston. **Cindi Webber** and our Special Events Committee have planned a great night of fun, featuring adult conversation, adult beverages like beer and wine (soft drinks, too), delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 each at the door. To reserve your spot, e-mail reservations@westwalker.org, or phone **Helen Lira** at 773.406.9821. It will be a winter wonderful night!

You may have noticed there are two new WWCA banners hanging in West Walker. Thanks to **Tony's Finer Foods** and the **Naviaux Family** for their support of the banner program, and to **Jackie Kazarian** for coordinating. If you'd like to find out how to sponsor your own banner, give me a call.

Johanna Zorn and the Vision Committee are kicking off the Art in My Backyard series with a theatre outing. The LaCosta Theatre Company is offering reduced price tickets to West Walker residents for their production of "Stuck" on Sunday, March 9th at 4:00 p.m. For more details, see page 4. If you haven't yet seen a play at LaCosta, this is a great opportunity to support our neighborhood's first theatre company.

The mission of the West Walker Civic Association is stated at the top of the adjacent column. On the heels of an important primary election, it is more important than ever to make our voices heard. Whether your interest is better schools, a new home for the Independence Library, park improvements, streetscaping or more retail and restaurant choices, I urge you to get involved to ensure our mission is fulfilled. Not one of these improvements will be handed to us. We must work with our elected representatives to "secure the services, safeguards and improvements the West Walker community is entitled to have."

On behalf of the WWCA Board of Directors, I'd like to thank **Pat Eisenhart** for her service to the mission of the WWCA and the community. Pat has resigned from the board, on which she served for many years. Her good counsel and sense of humor will be missed. I'm sure you join me in wishing her all the best!

Sincerely,
Liz Mills

News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

By Pat Eisenhart

Just a reminder not to forget the pantry now that the holidays are over. People are hungry all year long, not just in November and December. Your generosity is appreciated!

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 95 years of service to the West Walker Community

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Editor

Beth Tighe

The West Walker Wire is published monthly by the West Walker Civic Association.

All story ideas and text are due by the first of the month. Submit ideas and text to: west_walker_wire@yahoo.com. **Include a phone number in case we need to follow up with you.**

For information on advertising, please contact Laurie Gardner at 773-866-0665 or ferrislaura@sbcglobal.net



WWCA – General Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2008

The meeting was called to order by president Liz Mills at 7:40 p.m. The December 2007 WWCA meeting minutes were approved. A presentation on interior refining was then given by Laura Heitz of Right Now Redesign.

The treasurer’s report was not available. It will be presented at the February meeting. Membership dues are needed.

Liz and Evan Price reported on the Vision Committee’s “Art In My Backyard” series. The series will include events of an artistic nature presented by local artists. Liz also reported on the possibility of the LaCosta Theatre sponsoring a theatre night for the community.

Dorie Westmeyer of the Special Events Committee reported that the 2008 Winter Social event would be held at Lexa’s on February 23rd and would be thematically similar to the 2007 Winter Social.

Marvin Weinstein reported on a recent Zoning Committee meeting with the alderman and an interested residential developer for the 4024 North Harding parcel. The developer proposes to build 10 townhouses, 4 stories in height on the property and was requesting a zoning change. The proposal was rejected unanimously by the Zoning Committee on the grounds that it is incongruous with the community’s Vision.

Liz Mills reported on two fatal shootings recently near the boundaries of WW: One at 4153 Central Park and another on the 3100 block of West Montrose. These incidents are a sober reminder of the need for neighborhood associations to be vigilant in working with the police (via CAPS) to help report crime activity and keep information flowing.

Melanie Reschke reported that there would be a Home Improvement Fair co-sponsored by PEBA on March 9th at St. Edwards. City and local business representatives will be in attendance. There will also be an after-hours networking event on February 25th from 5:00 - 7:00 at the Bulgarian Cultural Center.

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry will be sponsoring a Valentines’ Day charity event on February 10th.

In Old Business, it was reported that neighbors still have nuisance issues with odors from the Strip Joynt. Efforts to resolve problems are ongoing with the Alderman’s office, City Department of Environment, the Dept. of Planning and neighbors.

continued on page 6

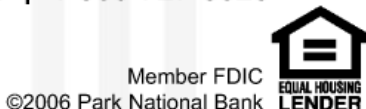
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Art in My Backyard presents...
West Walker Day on Sunday, March 9th
at La Costa Theatre! *by Johanna Zorn*

Come join your neighbors for the upcoming production at our wonderful neighborhood theatre:

WHEN: Sunday, March 9th, 4 p.m.

WHERE: La Costa Theatre, 3931 North Elston, 2nd floor

SPECIAL WW TICKET PRICE: Tickets are normally \$20, always \$15 for WW residents, but only \$12 on WW Day!

CALL: 773-866-0200, to reserve tickets at special rate

MORE INFO: lacostatheatre.com

Six People, One Train, STUCK, an original musical written and directed by Riley Thomas.

It's everyone's worst nightmare, but on stage, it's like a dream. "Stuck", a new musical by Riley Thomas, tells the story of six strangers from six different walks of life who find themselves stranded on a late night subway car. What begins as an awkward interaction quickly becomes a powerful evening that none of them could have anticipated. It's easy to fall in love with the dynamic characters as they explore each other through a host of hummable tunes that include a samba and an a capella jazz number. In the vein of "The Breakfast Club", the cult favorite film, "Stuck" will win your heart.

CAPS Report

By Pam Maremont

The last few meetings have been sparsely attended, but this month the room was full. Most people were there to find out more about the shooting that occurred in the 4100 block of Central Park on January 12. A lieutenant from the Tactical Unit was there and spoke most of the meeting. While there were no solid leads about the identity of the shooter, the police had some details to share. The victim was a member of the Spanish Gangster Disciples, but lived in territory claimed by the Simon City Royals. The shooter got out of a newer gray or silver car (possibly a Toyota Camry) and there were three other males in the vehicle. He was wearing a red hoodie and was seen several days later, but fled from the police. The police have been focusing their efforts on the area around the clock and hoped to gather more information from possible witnesses to the crime.

Another issue that brought a lot of residents out was the recent rash of dog nappings. A maroon van has been cruising on Monticello between Irving Park and Monticello looking for women walking their dogs. The van stops, knocks down the woman and steals her dog. So far there has not been any progress in locating the van or its owner. Both the police and several people from animal rescue organizations urged people to be alert when walking their dogs, especially at night. Also, when letting your dog out in your yard it is best to stay with them because they can be snatched in a matter of seconds.

One issue from last month was mentioned, the youth who were responsible for the graffiti have been arrested. Unfortunately the crime data that was supplied was from Beat 1732, not 1723. Hopefully next month we can get January's report also and compile both months for the CAPS report.



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Please Join Us

**WEST WALKER
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*Saturday,
February 23, 2008
7 - 10 p.m.*

*Gallery M at Lexa's
4433 N. Elston Ave.*

**APPETIZERS & DESSERTS
BEER, WINE & SODA**

*Tickets: \$25 per person in advance
\$30 at the door*

*R.S.V.P. by 2/20 to 773.406.9821
or reservations@westwalker.org*

Reserve Now! Space is Limited!



Oodles of Noodles! IPAC Spaghetti Dinner

The Independence Park Advisory Council will host its 19th annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 1, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Independence Park Field House. The menu will be minestrone soup, spaghetti with marinara sauce, meatball sandwiches, garlic bread, salads, and desserts, which will be served by the Boy Scouts. There will be live entertainment. The silent auction will offer lots of goodies.

Dinner costs \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors; kids 3 to 12 are \$5; and kids under age 3 are free. Beverages will be available for an additional charge. Funds raised by the dinner go to the park for improvements.

Additionally, IPAC is looking for donations for the Silent Auction and volunteers to coordinate the Auction. IPAC is also looking for suggestions and ideas for entertainment at the Spaghetti Dinner.

Bring the family and enjoy an evening with your neighbors. For more information, please contact pat.clark1973@yahoo.com.

Park View School Plans Open Houses

Park View Lutheran School will host open houses on February 24th, March 16th and April 20th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Park View Lutheran offers programs for 3- and 4-year olds through 8th grade. The caring community of teachers, parents and students provides a creative and nurturing learning environment.

During the Sunday open houses, families are invited to tour the classroom, meet teachers, parents and students, pick up a curriculum guide and ask questions. Park View offers excellent academics in a Christian atmosphere. It welcomes families of every race and faith.

For more information call 773.267.0072. The school is located at 3919 N. Monticello, just south of the Irving/Elston/Monticello intersection.

3rd Annual Ultimate Home Improvement Business Fair

Looking to make some changes around your house? Get some great idea on Sunday, March 9, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m..

This 3rd Annual Event is co-sponsored by Alderman Margaret Laurino, Alderman Patrick Levar and the Pulaski Elston Business Association (PEBA). The event will be at St. Edward's Church, 4343 W. Sunnyside Avenue. At the fair you can:

- 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 attend this fun and informative home improvement business fair. This event is hosted with the support of the Chicago Department of Planning and Development. For more information, call PEBA at 773-545-0941.

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Growing Vegetables in your Backyard



This month's topic is seed starting, and growing your own vegetables at home. I started growing vegetables last year, and was fairly successful. I did find the season a bit short though, and starting seeds indoors does not provide enough light – the seedlings get “leggy” - long and weak – even in a sunny window.

So this year I decided to invest in grow lights – they are similar to regular fluorescent lights, and don't use much energy, but provide a good spectrum of light for plant growing. You can also just use regular fluorescents. I bought a heat mat, with its own thermostat, to aid in seed starting, since different seeds like different temperatures.

I always buy heirloom seeds – you can re-sow these year after year from the fruits, as they grow true - rather than hybrids, which are for the season, and which you have to buy every year. Most vegetables you buy in the supermarket are hybrids – if you plant their seeds and something grows, the plant you get may be quite unlike the parent, and may not bear fruit. Most supermarket vegetables are bred for size, color, and ability to handle cold storage, rather than taste. You may know this if you ever ate an heirloom tomato!

Our last frost date is on, or around, April 22nd. Most vegetables need to be started about 6-8 weeks before that, so they can be planted outside as soon as the soil thaws. I've already started some seeds for this year – impatiens and pansies, and the early veggies – peas, cabbage, broccoli, leeks, lettuce, tomatoes – will start first week in March.

Plant the seeds in a good, organic growing medium, let them germinate, thin out if necessary into larger pots, then put them under the lights and let nature do her work. Don't be tempted to over water! Keep soil moist but not wet. Put the seedlings outdoors to “harden off” a few days before planting outside, in a freshly turned bed with compost and mulch, and prepare to enjoy! And get the kids involved – this is a great spring project!

What about bugs? Well, I don't use pesticides – but you can encourage beneficial insects such as ladybugs and mantises that eat caterpillars, or use companion planting, such as nasturtiums under apple trees, which discourages aphids. Also, floating row covers protect your plants, while allowing light and moisture to pass through.

Please contact me with questions!
Michelle Kaicener - mkaicener@earthlink.net

Website of the month:
<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/veggies/>

WWCA January Meeting Minutes

continued from page 3

In New Business, the WWCA is still looking for a Wire distribution coordinator. Any interested parties can talk to Liz for more details. WWCA is also looking for a room setup person for the monthly WWCA meetings. Interested parties can talk to Liz for more details.

Mark Johnson from the Tapestry Center (new church on Irving at Avers) introduced himself and spoke briefly about the Tapestry Center. He also offered their church space as an option for hosting WWCA meetings.

Liz announced that Pat Eisenhart had recently resigned from the WWCA board of directors. New officers and board members are needed. She also asked people to consider the idea of having fewer WWCA meetings (bi-monthly or quarterly).

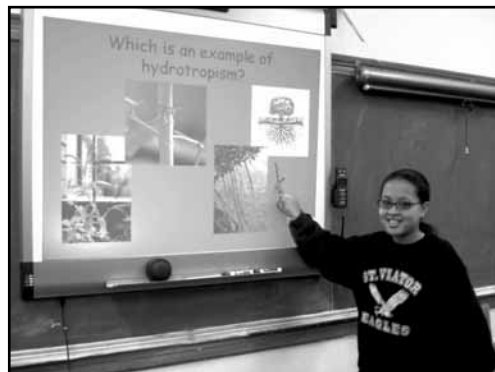
The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

News from St. Viator's

New Technology at St. Viator Elementary School

Something exciting is happening in Room 305 this year. The Fifth graders were chosen to test technology new to St. Viator Elementary School – an interactive whiteboard.

The interactive whiteboard is a touch-sensitive display that connects to our computer so all the students can see the computer screen.



St. Viator 5th grade student, Danielle D., uses the interactive whiteboard.

Students can interact with the presentation, adding comments, filling in blanks, moving words and graphics around the screen. Anything done on the screen can then be saved as a computer file and printed to be used as a study guide or to supplement textbook material.

Retro Dance and Silent Auction

All are invited to Jitter Bug, Swing, Twist or do the Mashed Potato at St. Viator's Retro Dance Party and Silent Auction on Saturday, March 8th from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Dinner from Fontanos and a night of great music is included with the price of your ticket. There will be a cash bar and great prizes to bid on. Stroll on over to St. Viator and join in the fun! For additional information please call 773-545-2176 or visit www.stviatorchicago.org.

Office Report: 39th Ward

My office now has **Cook County Prescription Discount Cards**. Any county resident – with or without prescription coverage – can use this program. Even if you have insurance for prescription drugs, you may still benefit from the discount card – it may save you money on prescriptions your existing plan does not cover. Everyone is eligible, and there are no claim forms or annual fee. For more information, visit <http://co.cook.il.us> or <http://www.caremark.com/naco>, or call toll free 1-877-321-2652.

Upcoming Events... I will be co-sponsoring a **Home Improvement Business Fair**, along with Alderman Patrick Levar and the Pulaski Elston Business Association. The fair will take place on **Sunday, March 9th - from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - at Saint Edward's Church**, located at **4343 W. Sunnyside Avenue**. Representatives from the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association, the city Department on Aging, and the city Department of Construction and Permits will be present. For more information or if you own a business and would like to reserve a table, please contact Dawn D'Amico at (773) 545-0941.

Congressman Rahm Emanuel is hosting a **FREE Income Tax Assistance Program** in his district office, which is located at **3742 West Irving Park Road**. This is a free program for families earning up to \$40,000 and individuals earning up to \$15,000 annually. Please bring all your tax documents (W-2s, 1099s, etc.), identification, and last year's tax return, if possible. They will take people first come, first served, so please try to get there early – it does fill up fast. The program will be held on Saturdays from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. on the following dates: every Saturday in February; March 1st, 15th, 22nd, and 29th; April 5th and 12th. This is completely confidential, and translators are available. For more information, please contact the Tax Assistance Program at (312) 409-1555 or visit www.taxassistance.org.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my public service office at (773) 736-5594 or email us at ward39@cityofchicago.org.

Sincerely, Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward

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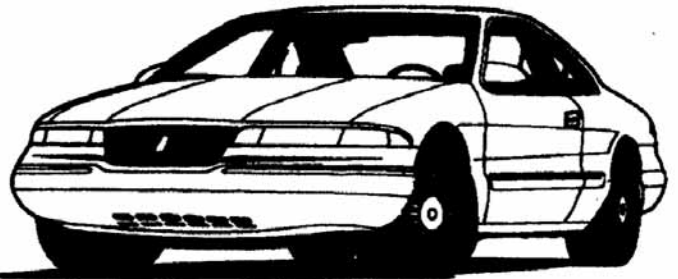
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