



WEST WALKER WIRE

NOVEMBER 2008

www.westwalker.org

**DON'T FORGET - NO NOVEMBER MEETING
SEE YOU DECEMBER 16TH FOR THE WWCA GENERAL
MEETING AND HOLIDAY GATHERING!**

AIMBY Launches *Mortal*

Art In My Back Yard is pleased to present *Mortal*, the group's second presentation of visual art in the artistic series. Located across the street from a funeral parlor, *Mortal* is an exhibition of work by three artists who contemplate death and rebirth. The show of painting, ceramics and sculpture by **Mel Dean Westmeyer**, **Chris Busse** and **David Dumo** offer both sober and playful takes on the theme of mortality.

The exhibition begins November 14th and runs through Sunday, December 7. AIMBY will hold a series of events at the gallery during the month-long show, including an artist talk on Saturday, Nov 22, 4-5 p.m.; a kids' art workshop on Sunday, November 30, 1-2:30 p.m., and a networking forum for artists on Saturday, December 6, 4-6 p.m.

The gallery is located at 3959 W. Irving Park Road. Gallery hours are Fridays, 2-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 2-6 p.m.; and Sundays, 12-4 p.m.

Mortal is part of a series of exhibitions presented by Art In My Back Yard (AIMBY), an art program that uses empty neighborhood storefronts on the northwest side of Chicago to feature the work of community artists. Its name plays off the phrase "Not In My Back Yard," or "NIMBY" and refers to an effort to encourage people in the community to support and learn about art and local artists. AIMBY was founded by West Walker Civic Association in 2007.

For more information, contact Jackie Kazarian at jk@jackiekazarian.net or www.artinmybackyard.com.

Mortal is co-sponsored by Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association. Art In My Back Yard is supported with grants from the Marx Foundation and Irving Park Carlson Ministries.

WITHIN THE WIRE...

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Through Apr 2009

Primary Gym, for children ages 3 - 8
St. Viator - 3644 N. Kedvale
(See page 9 for info)

November 18 • 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Winter Preparedness Fair
Roosevelt High School
3436 W. Wilson Ave.

November 19 • 7:00 p.m.
Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting
17th District Police Station,
Community Room - 4650 N. Pulaski

November 25 • 7:30 p.m.
Community Thanksgiving Celebration
& Plenty of Pie Reception
Immaculate Heart of Mary
3834 N. Spaulding. (See page 5)

November 27 • 1:00 p.m.
Free Home-Cooked
Thanksgiving Dinner
St. John's Episcopal Church
3857 N. Kostner (More on page 5)

Through December 7
Art in My Back Yard Exhibit: *Mortal*
3959 W. Irving Park Road

December 14 • 4:00 p.m.
Irving Park Fine Arts Council Concert
Irving Park Lutheran Church
4100 N. Harding. (Info on page 9)

Through December 15 • 10 a.m.
Weekly Preschool Story Time
Independence Park Branch Library -
3548 W. Irving Park

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

Dear Neighbor:

by Mike Webber
WWCA Vice President

Election Day this year was as fine a November day as I can remember. That seemed fitting. After almost 2 years of listening to the candidates and the work mates and the friends and family debate, it was time to decide to move forward.

My boys are 8 and 11 years old, but they were almost as well versed in the popular pros and cons of the candidates, at least in the Presidential race, as the average man in the street. They were up early, knowing we had to vote early before school and work. Normally when we arrive at our polling place (The Latvian Center) before 7:00 a.m., we are almost alone and are one of the first 20 people to vote that day.

This Tuesday, we were greeted by a line almost out the door. I think everyone was surprised at the crowd, but everyone was patient, happy and respectful. People could tell it was going to be a special day. People were ready to put the debate behind and move forward.

I, like many I know, had hopes that this day would be one that would be remembered not just by us, but by future generations. I was also lucky enough to bring my family to join sixty thousand other people in Grant Park that night to wait for the results of this historic campaign and election.

The streets surrounding Grant Park were full of a wonderful energy. Like the circus had come to town or at Carnival. But the performers were us, the jubilant, hopeful people from all walks of life who, more than anything else, just wanted to be there. To be embraced by the thousands of other hopefuls who felt that a new time was at hand.

And I wanted my children to be there too. This election was about their future more than our past. If this country was going to shrug off the old and embrace the future, I wanted them to remember that they were there when it all began.

After enjoying the street, we entered the field where the stage sat, waiting for its speaker to arrive. The crowd was noisy in anticipation and rose up in excitement every time a new state was called. Barack Obama's name was on everyone's lips. When the announcement came that Obama was over the top, there was an explosion of cheers, tears and hugging, amazement and joy.

We could just see the stage from our rise of the ground. My little one, Charlie, had curled at my feet in the warm leaves. The older, Max, was standing in rapt attention when our President-elect, Barack Obama, waiting out the cheers, gave his acceptance speech by beginning:

"If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer."

As we stood and listened, I thought of my children and how much this election could mean to them, this country and the world. Obama's words mingled with my thoughts. It will be a difficult task ahead. I will do what I can. I will encourage my children, and others, to do what's right and what will make the future a better place. Although I am a cynic at times, this is not one.

The words from the stage come back to me:

"This is our time - to put our people back to work and open doors of opportunity for our kids; to restore prosperity and promote the cause of peace; to reclaim the American Dream and reaffirm that fundamental truth - that out of many, we are one; that while we breathe, we hope, and where we are met with cynicism, and doubt, and those who tell us that we can't, we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the spirit of a people:

Yes We Can.

Thank you, God bless you, and may God Bless the United States of America."

America has shown how great it can be this month. We are all neighbors, be it the family next door, across town or in another country. This is the message I will teach my children. This is the message they heard one warm November night in Grant Park. This is the message I hope everyone can hold and pass on.

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 96 years of service to the West Walker Community

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Beth Tigie

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, contact Laurie Gardner at 773-866-0665 or ferrislaura@sbcglobal.net.



WWCA – General Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2008

Mike Weber opened the meeting at 7:40 and introduced the 17th District's new Police Commander, Michael Mealer.

Commander Mealer spoke with us at length. Commander Mealer grew up across from Bateman School, attended Lane Tech and North Park College and is also an attorney.

Commander Mealer is glad to see the neighborhood has remained relatively stable and seems to be changing for the better. He would like to reduce juvenile crimes and has met with local principals and the police officers in the schools. Other than thefts to vehicles, he noted no significant crime worries for our area. GPS systems and other electronics should be removed from vehicles or kept out of sight.

The 17th district is the 3rd largest in the city and its boundaries are from the river to Cicero and from Belmont to Devon, encompassing approximately 170,000. Commander Mealer also said that we can go to www.chicagopolice.org and submit questions and issues regarding our community.

The treasurer's report showed an amount of \$963.07. Motion to approve the report was made by Liz Mills and seconded by Mark Pascale.

There are many upcoming special events – including Art In My BackYard which begins on Friday, 11/14 and will be at 3959 W Pulaski.

More carriers are needed to deliver the wire. Interested? Contact a West Walker Board Member.

There will be no November meeting. Meetings for this membership year are September, October, December, March, April and May. The West Walker Wire will continue to be published in the months when there are no meetings – November, January, February and June.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.



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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It's been a whirlwind month for us. We've had several parties booked. By the way, congratulations to the new Mr. & Mrs. Marc Menet. May they have many, many wonderful years together.

Additionally, we found out we're on the list of the October Chicago Magazine's list of the top 10 hot new Chicago restaurants.

"HOT WOKS COOL SUSHI

Irving Park's on fire. Between Hot Woks Cool Sushi and Smoque BBQ-just down the street-it's one giant block party."

To even be mentioned with Smoque is high praise indeed so November is the month to be thankful and we're thankful we got here when we did. After all, Irving Park is on fire!

So come on by to relax and enjoy. We'll be waiting for you!

Noom & Lois
3930 N. Pulaski
773-282-1818
HotWoksCoolSushi.com

PLEASE RENEW YOUR WWCA DUES!

Your Membership Dues Are Used To:

- Publish 10 issues per year of the West Walker Wire, delivered to residences and businesses in West Walker, free of charge.
- Sponsor Free Special Events, like the Fall Fest and 4th of July Celebration at Independence Park
- Present the Art in My Back Yard Artistic Series
- Put on the Annual Community Garage Sale
- Support area non-profit groups like the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, Independence Park and Independence Library.

Please make your check payable to: WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION. Mail or drop off your application and dues to: John Minor, 4326 N. Hamlin Ave., Chicago, IL 60618

Membership form available online at:
<http://www.westwalker.org/membership.html>

La Costa Theatre Presents The Devil's Daughter

La Costa Theatre Company is presenting "The Devil's Daughter." The play is about a professional magician/illusionist who has a full-time gig at his quirky aunt's night club. After working on stage together for years his assistant, Victoria leaves the act to pursue a relationship with her boyfriend (a Chicago baseball player). A distraught Blake then meets a beautiful woman, Casindra, who appears in the club one night and is immediately entranced by her. What Blake doesn't know is that Casindra is the Devil's Daughter! As Blake and Casindra's romance blossoms it is, well compromised, by her father, the Devil and her little brother, Carmichael. Filled with drama, comedy and romance this family friendly magical mystery will leave you spellbound as you witness the magic, illusions and escapes of the The Devil's Daughter!

The play runs through December 14th. Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances are at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday shows at 4:00 p.m. La Costa Theatre Company is located at 3931 N. Elston. Tickets are \$20 per person (\$18 for Students and Seniors). To purchase tickets you can call the box office at 773-866-0200, go on-line at www.TicketWeb.com, or follow the 'Box Office' link from La Costa's web-site: www.lacostatheatre.com.



Community Thanksgiving Celebration

Join your neighbors for a Community Thanksgiving Celebration & Plenty of Pie reception! Tuesday, November 25th at 7:30 p.m. The evening will feature the talents of local church choirs, sacred readings, and preaching by The Rev. Brooke Petersen of Irving

Park Lutheran Church. The free will offering benefits Hands to Help Ministries which serves neighbors who are homeless or in need. The event is hosted by Immaculate Heart of Mary, 3834 N. Spaulding.

Free Home-Cooked Thanksgiving Dinner

Don't stay home alone this Thanksgiving! Please come out for a free home-cooked dinner served family style at St. John's Episcopal Church 3857 N. Kostner on Thursday, November 27 at 1:00 p.m. An hour of music, prayers, and thanksgiving readings will begin at 11:30 am for those waiting for dinner. People wishing to help serve dinner should contact Suellen Miller at stjohnschicago@aol.com to volunteer.

We are proud to support

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Green Committee Update

Hi everyone, There are three neighborhood topics I want to talk about in this issue:

1. Mayor Daley's Winter Preparedness Fairs

Mayor Daley and the City of Chicago are, once again, holding winter preparedness fairs in various locations around the city. The one closest to West Walker will be at:

Roosevelt High School, 3436 W. Wilson Ave., Tuesday, November 18th, 2008, 3:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

You will receive a free home weatherization kit, which, last year, contained weather stripping, plastic window covering, outlet covers, CFL's (compact fluorescent light bulbs), all in a great tote bag that can be reused for shopping! For a full list of locations, or for more information about saving on utility bills, or utility assistance, go to <http://egov.cityofchicago.org/city/webportal/home.do> or call 311.

2. New Recycling Dropoff Center

We have a new location to recycle our paper, bottles, and cans in the 39th Ward. The City of Chicago has placed a blue recycling bin in the public parking lot of the 17th District Police Station, 4651 N. Pulaski. Residents can drop off:

- Aluminum, tin or steel cans
- Glass jars and bottles
- Flattened cardboard boxes, cereal boxes, paper towel rolls
- Plastic bottles and containers
- Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, office paper, telephone books

Recyclables do not need to be separated. The drop-off center is open from dawn to dusk, 7 days a week.

3. Discussion about starting a West Walker Community Garden

I will mention this very briefly since it is just an idea, and very much on the drawing board, but if anyone would be interested in participating in a Community Garden, please contact me and let me know.

Michelle Kaicener

mkaicener@earthlink.net

Website of the Month:

http://www.greennetchicago.org/community_gardens.html

REDUCED!

4107 N. Harding Ave.

\$425,000



Immaculate 3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath home. 1st floor has formal Living Room & Dining Room with bay windows, spacious Kitchen with tall vintage cabinets, sunny breakfast room, office/den, full bath with large tiled walk-in shower. Adjoining 1st floor rec room could become 4th Bedroom. 2nd floor bath has tub & tiled walk-in shower. Spacious full finished basement, perfect for entertaining, has double-sink wet bar, quarry tile, separate laundry area. Large rooftop deck off 3rd bedroom overlooks fenced yard with dog run and 2 car garage.

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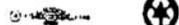
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39th Ward Public Service Office
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 Ward Office: (773) 736-5594
Ward39@cityofchicago.org

Margaret Laurino
 Alderman
 39th Ward



City Hall, Room 203
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Halloween and Fall Fest

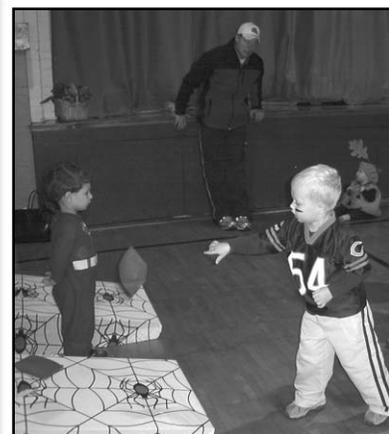
Fall Fest A Success!

Thanks to the hard work of event chair **Tara McKee** and the West Walker Special Events Committee, the WWCA's annual Halloween Party and Fall Festival was a great success. With over 50 children and their parents in attendance, the Irving Park Lutheran Church gym was packed with costumed kids and grown-ups. The afternoon featured a costume parade led by parade marshall Batman (aka **Steve Kendrick**), followed by spooky crafts and refreshments.

A drawing was held for a variety of great prizes. **Cindi Webber** and **Ted Mulch** each won a one-night stay at the Cove in Lake Geneva, donated by NBC5. **MarySue Witchger** was the winner of 4 tickets to the Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus, also donated by NBC5. The winner of the Fall basket, donated by **Dorie Westmeyer** of Charles Rutenberg Realty, was **Linda Valencia**. **Mary Rizzo** won a kid's gift basket filled with Indiana Jones items. And **Vance Lira**, **Jack Mills** and **Dan White** each won a Webkinz. **Jack Kendrick** won a jar filled with candy corn by coming closest to guessing the number of pieces in the jar. Congratulations to our winners, and thanks to the volunteers and additional donors listed below.

Ellen Darnieder	Beth Tidmarsh
Helen Lira	Beth Tigue
Jane Nagle	Cindi Webber
Maureen Nelson	Dorie Westmeyer
Tara McKee	MarySue Witchger
Liz Mills	Irving Park Lutheran Church
Theresa Rasmussen	

In addition to netting approximately \$150 for the WWCA, over a dozen bags and boxes of food were delivered to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, thanks to the generosity of those who came to the event.



stival Fun



More photos posted on the new WWCA Website!
See the Gallery Page and click on
Halloween & Fall Fest 2008

OCTOBER 26, 2008



Office Report: 39th Ward

Michelle Kaicener and members of the West Walker Civic Association were instrumental in getting signatures for the 39th Ward blue cart petition drive. We're still hoping to get the blue carts next year but in the meanwhile, the Department of Streets and Sanitation installed a blue recycling bin in the public parking lot of the **17th District Police Station, 4651 N. Pulaski**.

Residents can drop off the following in the recycling bin:

- Glass jars and bottles
- Aluminum, tin or steel cans
- Flattened cardboard boxes, cereal boxes, paper towel rolls
- Plastic bottles and containers
- Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, office paper, telephone books

Recyclables do not need to be bagged or separated. The drop-off center is open from dawn to dusk, 7 days a week.

Trying to save a little on your utilities this winter? Then stop by Mayor Daley's Winter Preparedness Fair on Tuesday, November 18, from 3:30 – 8 p.m., at Roosevelt High School, 3436 W. Wilson. The fair is designed to help Chicago residents prepare for the winter, with services ranging from applying for financial assistance to learning about Peoples Gas and Com Ed budget payment programs. In addition, everyone who attends the fair will receive a free home weatherization kit.

Foreclosures are increasing throughout the country and Chicago is no exception. If you or someone you know has difficulty meeting mortgage payments, the City of Chicago is sponsoring a series of Borrower Outreach days. The event offers participants loan work-out sessions with counselors and lenders, access to free legal assistance, various workshops and information about the City's financial literacy programs. The northwest Borrower Outreach Day will be held on Saturday, December 6, at North Park Village, Administration Building, 5801 N. Pulaski, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. To register, please contact the Department of Housing at 312-742-0635.

Finally, I would like to send my best wishes to the entire West Walker community for a happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely, Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward



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Irving Park Fine Arts Council Concert Sunday, December 14

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is proud to announce the second concert of its 2008-2009 season. The Lutheran Choir of Chicago will perform on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. at the Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding. Admission to the concert is free of charge, though a free will offering may be made to help defray expenses. An informal reception with the performers follows the concert.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Series, now in its 15th 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. An accomplished musician with numerous professional credits, Mr. Bingaman is a recipient of the Friend of the Arts Award presented to him by former chief Chicago Tribune critic Richard Christiansen, for the Artist's Council of the Friends of the Independence Branch Library.

Future concerts in the series are on February 22, 2009 at 2:00 p.m., featuring Nicholas Photinos, cello and Yasuko Oura, piano; and a return of the Apollo Trio on April 26, 2009 at 2:00 p.m., featuring flutist Scott Metlika, bassoonist Karl Rzasa and Matthew Coley on marimba and percussion.

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.

News from St. Viator

Curriculum Mapping

St. Viator recently received a grant to implement a new program: Curriculum Mapper. Information gathered from this mapping will allow for an on-going professional discussion on how to continually improve the education provided to students. The data generated from the system can be analyzed to make sure there is alignment within St. Viator to create a seamless preschool through 8th grade journey. The data can also be examined in conjunction with standardized test scores to pinpoint areas of strengths and weaknesses to continually improve the education provided to St. Viator students. The Curriculum Mapper provided by Collaborative Learning Inc. is implemented by the Archdiocese of Chicago in conjunction with the Office of Catholic Schools.

Primary Gym Starts Saturday, November 1st

All are welcome to join in the fun at St. Viator (3644 N. Kedvale) on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month (November 2008 through April 2009) for children ages 3 through 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. You and your child can enjoy organized fun, such as, biddy basketball or free time activities, such as, dodge ball, baseball, scooters, floor hockey and soccer. The cost is \$15.00 per family for the year.

Upcoming Open Houses

Take a peek inside St. Viator and mark your calendar for our upcoming open houses:

- Saturday, January 24, 2009 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. followed with a mass at 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 6, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Showcasing our preschool and kindergarten programs

For additional information on St. Viator, please visit our website www.stviatorchicago.org or you may call the school office 773/545-2173 to schedule a tour.



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4100 N. Pulaski, Chicago (773)777-5477
Upcoming Events Register NOW!!!!

The Year End Recital Registration deadline September 20th

Halloween Party Oct. 27th from 6-8 p.m.

Midnight on Halloween performance Oct. 28th and 29th 8:00 p.m.

The Year end show "Anything Goes" December 18th 2008

Please call for more info OR visit our web site www.kidsdancechicago.com

CAPS Report

by Margaret McIntyre

Old issue updates:

- Regarding a house in the 3800 block of Montrose that has been a nuisance to neighborhood, officers investigated and reported no activity. It is still an open concern and will continue to be monitored.
- Regarding a report of people who have started selling drugs on the corner of Hamlin and Montrose, officers investigated and reported no activity. It is still an open concern and will continue to be monitored.

New issues raised:

- Recently there has been a large increase in theft to vehicles. This is due to people breaking into cars for the GPS system. Police urge people to remember to lock their vehicles and put valuables, especially GPS units, out of sight.
- There were reports of people living in a vacant building of the 3800 block of Montrose. Officers will investigate.
- There were reports of tenants being disorderly and drinking heavily in a building of the 3800 block of Montrose. Officers will investigate.

Additional information:

- There is a new curfew law in effect for youth under 17 years of age. Sunday-Thursday 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

- Even if you only suspect something is not right, please call 911 or 311. This way, it will be noted on Police call sheets. The Police will continue to monitor these areas.

Statistics by type of crime in the West Walker neighborhood (September 17-October 14, 2008)

Battery (domestic simple).....	12
Theft (\$300 and under).....	5
Assault (aggravated).....	4
Motor vehicle theft.....	3
Criminal damage (vehicle).....	3
Battery (simple).....	2
Assault (simple).....	2
Criminal damage (property).....	2
Burglary (forcible entry).....	2
Theft (over \$300).....	2
Theft (from building).....	2
Burglary (attempt forcible entry).....	1
Robbery (strongarm-no weapon).....	1
Criminal trespass.....	1
Theft (retail).....	1

CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meetings for 2008 for our beat are held at the 17th District in the community Room, 4650 North Pulaski. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. monthly on the 3rd Wednesday and typically last one hour. The next meeting is November 19th.

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Park Ridge IL 60068

Park Ridge Branch (Touhy Ave)

950 W Touhy Ave
Park Ridge IL 60068

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CHICAGO: 9932 S. Western Avenue
DES PLAINES: 125 East Oakton

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ROCKFORD: 747 S. Perryville Road

MILWAUKEE: 1708 S. 108th St. in West Allis



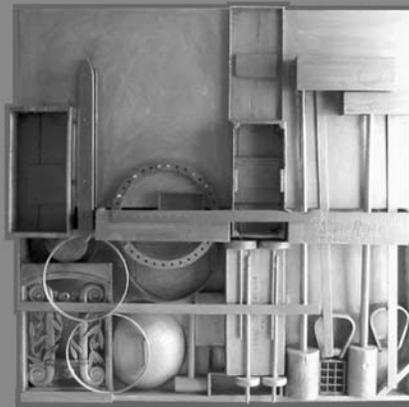
**NOT
IN MY
BACK
YARD**

A series of
neighborhood
cultural events

presents

Mortal

David Dumo, sculpture
Chris Busse, ceramics
Mel Dean Westmeyer, painting



Left: Chris Busse, *Blue Lidded Vessel*, 2006, stoneware, 22.5 x 8 in.
Top, right: Mel Dean Westmeyer, *Last Meal, John Wayne Gacy-IIIinois, Part 5*, 2008, oil on linen, 27 x 36 in.
Bottom, right: David Dumo, *Golden Square*, 2007, acrylic on wood, 48 x 48 in.

November 14–December 7

Opening Reception: Friday, November 14, 6-9 pm

3959 W Irving Park Rd
Near Pulaski Rd,
CTA Blue Line and Metra

Fridays & Saturdays 2-6 pm
Sundays 12-4 pm

Events:

Opening Reception	Friday, Nov 14	6-9 pm
Artist Talk	Saturday, Nov 22	4-5 pm
Kids' Art Workshop	Sunday, Nov 30	1-2:30 pm
Networking for Artists	Saturday, Dec 6	4-6 pm

artinmybackyard.com



westwalker.org



independence-park.com