

WEST WALKER WIRE

DECEMBER 2006

www.westwalker.org

Family Fun and Holiday Cheer at December Meeting

We'll be serving up holiday cheer and family fun at West Walker's annual Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 19th at 7:30 p.m. at the Latvian Hall, 4160 N. Elston. There will be a drawing for door prizes, festive refreshments, music and treats for the kids. Join us for a meeting that will be short on agenda items and long on fun!

West Walker Receives Neighborhood Grant

The West Walker Civic Association is being awarded a Neighborhood Service Grant from the Edward M. Marx Foundation. Edward Marx founded New World Van Lines, located in the 39th Ward's Industrial Corridor. His widow, Shirley Marx, currently runs the company and the foundation.

The Grant was secured by 39th Ward Alderman Margaret Laurino. The Alderman will be in attendance at our December Meeting/Holiday Party to present the check.

Local Arts Group Wanted

If you are passionate about the arts and would like to see an arts organization brought to the West Walker neighborhood, please join a West Walker committee that seeks to do just that. In the Vision community sessions, residents strongly stated that they would like to have a cultural organization serve as an anchor for the community. The Vision survey also revealed that 98% of respondents would like to see a cultural component to future development on Elston Avenue. To make that happen, we need your help. Phone Marvin Weinstein at 773-478-6882, or e-mail him at: marvin@inservices.com to become involved.

WITHIN THE WIRE...

- Page 2** • Dear Neighbor
- Page 3** • Neighbors Gather to Boost Bungalow Renovation
- Page 4** • WWCA Meeting Minutes: November 21, 2006
- Page 6** • CAPS Update: Beat 1723
- Page 6** • Children's Choir Seeks Members • Children's Theater Camp
- Page 7** • Office Report: 39th Ward

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 19 • 7:30 p.m.

WWCA General Meeting & Annual Holiday Party

Refreshments & Holiday Cheer served!
*Latvian Community Center
4146 N. Elston Ave.*

December 20 • 7:00 p.m.

Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting

*17th District Police Station,
Community Room - 4650 N. Pulaski*

**December 8, 2006 – January 9, 2007
Mel Dean Westmeyer: Last Meals**

A West Walker resident, Mr. Westmeyer's paintings are now on display.

Gallery M (at Lexus Floral)

4433 N Elston Ave

*(Contact Bill Dugan at 773-463-1882 or
bill@fishguy.com for more information)*

January 2 - 5 • 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Chicspere - Twelfth Night Camp

Winter Break Theater Workshop for Children

Portage Park (see Page 7 for details)

January 6 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m

Turn Green Into Blue.

Christmas Tree Recycling

North Park Village

5801 N. Pulaski Road

January 16 • 7:30 p.m.

WWCA General Meeting

Guest speaker, Roger McMahon, Development Director from the Chicago International Charter School
*Latvian Community Center
4146 N. Elston Ave.*

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

Dear Neighbor:

The recent snowfall brings to mind a few weather-related suggestions. To ensure the delivery of your mail and to keep our mail carriers safe, clear the snow and ice from your sidewalk and steps. Consider shoveling the walk of someone who is less able, and be sure to thank the good eggs who clear the whole block with their snow blowers. And rather than claiming "parking dibs" with a chair in the street, how about following the example of homeowners on the 4100 block of Springfield who band together to shovel out each other's spaces and most of the street.

We're very grateful to **Alderman Margaret Laurino** (39th) for securing a \$1,000 grant from the Marx Foundation in support of the Fall Festival. Alderman Laurino will present the check at our Holiday Party.

Thanks to Alderman Laurino for speaking at our November meeting about the state of the ward. (See minutes on page 4) Many of the questions directed to her concerned traffic safety. Please contact me at 773.267.9298 or lizmills@sbcglobal.net if you'd like to join our Safe Neighborhoods Committee to work with the Alderman and the 17th District on traffic concerns.

I'm sure I speak for the whole West Walker community when I express my sympathy for **Alderman Richard Mell** (33rd) on the loss of his beloved wife, **Margaret**, earlier this month. The WWCA has sent a donation in her name to the Society For Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, from which she suffered.

I'd like to recognize **Marvin Weinstein** for the improvements he continues to make to our web site. Most recently, he has added a Community Calendar where special events can be posted simply by completing an online form. Any non-commercial event of community-wide interest can be posted. Thanks to Marvin and new Wire editor **Beth Tigue** for making the Wire available on the site. Have a question, beef, or compliment? Post it on the site's community forum at www.westwalker.org.

I'm very excited to announce that after a long wait, Smoque BBQ, located at 3800 N. Pulaski Road, is scheduled to open on Monday, December 18 at 9 a.m. I'm looking forward to sampling Barry Sorkin's "Q," and wish him and his partners all the best.

If you've always wanted to attend a West Walker meeting, but can't because of the kids, here's your chance! The business portion of the December 19th Holiday Party will be short and there will be lots of family-friendly holiday cheer! So let the kids stay up a little later and come on by.

Finally, my wishes to you and your family for a joyful celebration this holiday, and peace in the New Year.

Sincerely,
Liz Mills, President

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 90 years of service to the West Walker Community

2006-2007 OFFICERS

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| President | Liz Mills 267-9298 |
| Vice-President | Evan Price 267-1740 |
| Secretary | Mike Webber 539-8346 |
| Treasurer | Bob Begeske 267-5942 |

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Editor
Beth Tigue

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 see our Advertising Rates, Page 7.

Neighbors Gather to Boost Bungalow Renovation

A kick off fundraiser event for the renovation of the Bungalow in Independence Park took place on Saturday, November 4th. More than 100 people gathered to share in an evening of fine wine, good cheese, an exceptional silent auction and community socializing. A total of \$5,600 was raised at this event.

West Walker Resident, Ed Torrez, has been hired a preservation architect, to oversee the much needed architectural plans. Not only is Ed a member of the community, he is also experienced in working with the Chicago Park District.

The Preservation Committee will continue to hold a variety of fundraisers appealing to differing interest levels in the community. In January, the group will conduct a historical seminar on the history of the bungalow.

For more information on upcoming events related to the Bungalow Renovation, contact the Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association (GIPNA), P.O. Box 18184 Chicago, IL 60618, via email gipna@sbcglobal.net or on the web at <http://independence-park.com>.



Neighbors Gather - Including Andrea Terry (West Walker resident), Emily Ramsey, Ed Torrez (West Walker resident) and Alderman Margaret Laurino (above) - to Raise Funds for the Independence Park Bungalow Renovation. Below: Lynda Olander (president of GIPNA) and Johanna Zorn, West Walker resident.



West Walker Civic Association – General Meeting Minutes November 21, 2006 – 19 in attendance

WWCA President Liz Mills opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

The first order of business was a talk by 39th Ward Alderman, Margaret Laurino. Also present at the Alderman's request was Tony LaPash, the 39th Ward Superintendent. Mr. LaPash advised that Street Cleaning would continue as weather permitted. He also reminded everyone to report graffiti as soon as possible; quick removal is important to reduce gang activity. Alderman Laurino discussed the future of electronic voting, the soon-to-open Whole Foods at Cicero & Peterson, the transition to Blue Cart recycling and answered many questions raised by the attendees. Many concerns were raised about traffic issues, especially speeding and the failure to obey stop signs. Alderman Laurino hoped for better enforcement, noting that new hand-held speed guns are being made available and that a special traffic control team has recently been organized to address problem areas.

The October General Meeting Minutes were approved.

Treasurer Bob Begeske reported a general account balance of \$1,530.72.41 and a Banner account balance of \$7,972.41.

Liz Mills reported on the continuing efforts of the Vision Committee, including the recent Retail Chicago Tour of the Elston corridor and the soon to be completed Elston Ave. property inventory which will help identify areas for development. It was also reported that Marvin Weinstein has volunteered to head a sub-committee to identify and attract a Cultural Anchor for Elston Avenue – volunteers and ideas are welcome.

Mike Webber reported that the Zoning Committee decided to not recommend the proposal for 4247 N Elston because of density concerns raised during the formulation of the Vision Statement. More proposals are anticipated and the Committee is encouraged by a lower-density project going in at the 4100 block of North Pulaski.

Dorie Westmeyer reported on the success of the Fall Festival and the Bungalow fundraiser.

Melanie Reschke reported on the October 16, 2006 PEBA meeting.

The new Wire Editor, Beth Tigue, was introduced and thanked, as were new Advertising Sales volunteers, Laurie Gardner and Tara McKee.

December 15, 2006 is the Deadline for residents of Jefferson Township to appeal property tax assessments to the Cook County Board of Appeal. Alderman Laurino encouraged anyone interested to contact her office for assistance and an appeal form.

The December 19 meeting is the annual WWCA Christmas meeting. Refreshments will be served and families and children are welcome. There will be music, door prizes and no formal agenda. Please come meet your neighbors and enjoy some Holiday cheer.

Calendar reminders were given and the meeting was adjourned.

Margaret Laurino
Alderman
39th Ward

39th Ward Public Service Office
4404 West Lawrence Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60630-2511
Ward Office: (773) 736-5594
Ward39@cityofchicago.org



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CAPS Update: Beat 1723

The next meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on December 20th at 4650 N. Pulaski, 17th District Police Station Community Room. (Note: location change) The location of the 2007 CAPS meetings will be available in January.

The Top 5 Crimes for Beat 1723 for Oct. 18 - Nov. 14 were the following: Domestic Battery Simple (15), Simple Battery (14), Criminal Damage to Vehicle (11), Theft over \$300 (9), Criminal Damage to Property (9).

A set of the crime statistics report for 1723 CAPS will be available at the December West Walker monthly meeting.



Beat 1723 boundaries are: Irving Park Road to Lawrence Avenue, Pulaski Road to Kimball Avenue.

West Walker residents are encouraged to stay informed about crime and safety in our neighborhood by attending CAPS meetings held monthly on the third Wednesday.

A copy of the CPD Senior Citizen Program handout on Winter Safety / Services will be available at the December West Walker monthly meeting.

Additional information concerning crime in the area is available at www.chicagocrime.org. This website, although not affiliated with the Chicago Police Department, uses crime data obtained from the CPD's Citizen ICAM Web site, which is a publicly available database of reported crime.

Children's Choir Seeks 2nd - 8th Graders Who Love to Sing!

Interfaith Children's Choir of Irving Park invites all boys and girls from 2nd through 8th grade, of all faiths, from all neighborhoods. No auditions required! Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church on 4100 N. Harding. Winter session begins January 10th. This is a fabulous opportunity for children living in the NW Side. They will meet many other children in the area, and will open their worlds to the joy of music. ICCIP is in its 6th season! Call the church at (773) 267-1667 or email lilbee60618@yahoo.com for more information.

Winter Break Theater Camp for Kids

Chicspeare is leading Twelfth Night Camp, a drama camp for kids ages 6-12 during Winter Break, January 2-5 from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Twelfth Night is a play that plays around with disguise, giving kids a chance to play around with being characters they might never dream they'd be. Coached by professional actors, they will learn how to use their own senses - of sight, sound movement, humor and imagination - to make sense of Shakespeare's language, and learn how to find clues written into the text creating a performance of scenes from the play. The camp will conclude with a performance at 11 a.m. Friday, January 5, 2007.

Cost for the camp is \$25. For more information or to register, call Chicspeare at (773) 699-2273 or e-mail chicspeare@earthlink.net.

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Office Report: 39th Ward



I hope everyone enjoys very safe and Happy Holidays! As the temperatures continue to fall and the cost of gas continues to increase, **Peoples Energy** has provided the following **tips on weatherization and how to lower energy usage**:

- Lower the temperature on your thermostat, each degree lowered can save 3-5% on heating costs.
- Use weather stripping around door frames.
- Caulk and seal plumbing pipes, window frames, and doors.
- Change/clean filters in heating and cooling units; also get regular tune-ups.
- Close fire place when not in use.

Turn Green Into Blue. The city will once again be hosting a tree recycling event on **Saturday, January 6th, from 9:00 a.m. – 2: 00 p.m.** Bring your Christmas tree or a bag of recyclables to North Park Village, 5801 N. Pulaski Road, and receive a year's supply of blue bags.

The city has provided the following **Environmental Holiday Tips**:

- Use the Sunday comics as colorful wrapping paper.
- Save boxes and bows to reuse next year.
- Recycle used batteries from electronic gifts all year long (at libraries and here at my office).
- Recycle your Christmas tree and wreath on January 6th.

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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Send all ad copy and payments (and any ad questions) to:
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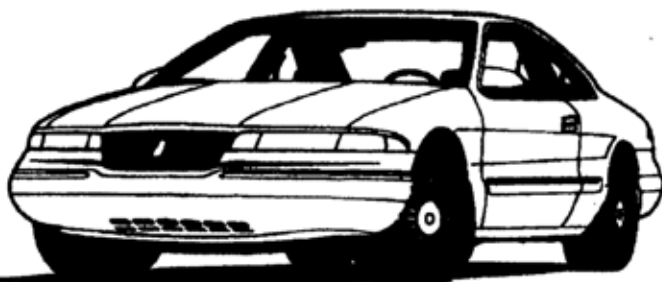
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