

WEST WALKER WIRE

NOVEMBER 2011

www.westwalker.org

West Walker Celebrates With Fall Fest!

By Beth Tidmarsh

The WWCA celebrated autumn with its annual Halloween party and Fall Fest on Saturday, October 29th at the Irving Park Lutheran Church gym. Over 100 neighborhood friends gathered for pumpkin painting, monster making, cupcake decorating, games, raffle prizes and refreshments. Also, 67 cans of food were collected for the Irving Park Community Food Pantry.

Winners of the exciting prizes were: Pam Austin, a SMOQUE gift certificate and a complimentary manicure; Deb and Chris Kloetwon, a Portage gift certificate; Dave Knickerbocker, a kids' cupcake baking basket; Kate Marzo, a kids' music CD/music class discount; the Kubes/Finnigan Family, the Wine Cellar gift basket; Eddie Torres, the Relax & Indulge gift basket; Jack Mills, the Key Lime Cove getaway; Timmy Witcher, the Chula Vista Resort getaway; and Maeve Altman correctly guessed the candy jar!

Thanks to everyone who gave time and energy to help organize and run the fabulous event: Dorie Westmeyer, Laurie Gardner, Connie Engel, Mindy Finnigan, Ken Kubes, Benee Brown, Amy Sobin, Deb Kloet, Miiri Kotche, Amanda Hayman, Josh Jones, Jen & Matt

(continued on page 3)



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 16 • 7:00 p.m.
17th Dist. CAPS Meeting, Beat 1723
4650 N. Pulaski

Friday, November 18 • 6 - 9:30 p.m.
Dip, Duck and Dive Dodgeball
Tournament
Irving Park YMCA
4251 W. Irving Park Road

**Saturday, November 19
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**
West Walker Holiday Fair
IPLC Gym, 4057 N. Harding

Saturday, November 19 • 4 - 8 p.m.
Boy Scout Pasta Dinner
St. Edward's Buckley Hall
4447 N. Lowell

Friday, December 2 • 6 - 8 p.m.
Advent Creative Fair
Irving Park Lutheran Church
Victory Hall, 4100 N. Harding Avenue

Sunday, December 4 • 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Festival of Stories and Song
St. John's Episcopal Church
3857 N. Kostner

Sunday, December 11 • 2:00 p.m.
Holiday Choral Concert
Presented by Irving Park Fine Arts
Committee
Irving Park Lutheran Church
4100 N. Harding Avenue

Sunday, December 11 • 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
Annual Cookie Walk and Breakfast with
Santa (presale ticket purchase required)
St. Edward's Buckley Hall
4447 N. Lowell

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

WITHIN THE WIRE...

- 2 Dear Neighbor • Thanks to Wire Carriers • One Simple Safety Tip
- 3 WWCA General Meeting Minutes
- 4 CAPS Report
- 5 39th Ward Report
- 6 News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry
- 8 News and Events from Carlson Community Services
- 9 Urgent Library Appeal and News from Irving Park YMCA
- 10 Neighborhood School News
- 11 Neighborhood Church News and Seanachai Theater News

Dear Neighbor,

Just a reminder: There is no November general meeting. Watch your e-mail, the West Walker website and the Wire for information regarding a December meeting or event – we are still looking at options.

As discussed at the October general meeting, the WWCA will be providing information about forming block groups and providing more real time information about events by email and web postings in the future. In the meantime, Call 911 and keep your neighbors informed if you feel anything illegal or suspicious is happening in your area of the neighborhood.

In addition to 911, you can call your alderman at the numbers listed in the “Important Contacts” section of the October issue of the Wire. Another possible source of information can be found on everyblock.com. Just enter your address to see what is happening around you. CAPS at the 17th District can also be called at 312-742-4410 or emailed at CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org

Please be courteous, aware and safe.

Mike Webber
President, WWCA

Our Thanks to Wire Carriers – Past and Present

After many years, Pat McKee and Derek Clark are handing their mailbags off to someone new to deliver the Wire. Many thanks to Pat and Derek for their contributions to the community.

Pat’s route has already been picked up, and we wish to thank Judy Cicero for volunteering to become a Wire carrier.

One more new carrier is needed to complete our carrier roster. If you enjoy a stroll around the neighborhood or just want to give back a little to the community, become a regular or back-up Wire carrier. If you are interested or need additional information, just call or e-mail any one of the West Walker officers or board members.

One Simple Safety Tip

by Lee Samsami Stein

Statistics say that houses with lights turned on are a lot less likely to be burglarized and cars are less likely to be broken in.

Consider motion lights, which illuminate anyone who approaches. Better yet, the easiest solution is to turn on the front porch light. The cost is minimal compared to the security it offers.

In “light” of the increase of crime incidents in and around the West Walker area, it’s in everyone’s best interest! So talk to your neighbors, and light up your whole street at night, for safety and peace of mind.

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 99 years of service to the West Walker Community

2011-2012 OFFICERS

President Mike Webber
773.539.8346

Vice President Davor Engel
773.202.1010
dengel@studiode.com

Secretary Vacant

Treasurer Jack Prikos

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER
Dorie Westmeyer

CAPS COORDINATOR
Jane Nagle

Send crime concerns to **Nicole Price**
at crimealerts@westwalker.org.

WEST WALKER CARRIER STAFF

Carol, Augie, and Gabie Barry

Glenda Begecke

Judy Cicero

Connie Engel

Patti Freko

Amanda Hayman

Peg Klimek

John & Betsy Minor

Mark Pascale

Tricia Ramirez & Mike Hawlitzky

Melanie Reschke

Pat & Marianne Turk

Max & Charlie Webber

EDITOR

Lee Samsami Stein

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. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for space and content.

For information on advertising, please contact Shannan Bunting at WWWire@solsticepr.com

WWCA General Meeting Minutes

From October 18th, 2011

Officers Present: Mike Webber, Jack Prikos
Minutes from the May general meeting were approved. Current bank balance was reported by Jack Prikos to be \$3,630.35 and current.

Mike Webber reported on efforts to update the communication efforts of the WWCA to provide more e-mail and online information and to facilitate the formation of block groups for support and increased response to problems. More information will be coming in future editions of the Wire.

Pat Ruch provided an update on area crime and houses that have come up as areas of concern in CAPS meetings. Pat provided "We call Police" signs to those interested and encouraged everyone to call 911 often and persistently and to attend CAPS meetings.

Holly James spoke to the members about starting a neighborhood "resilience circle" for self help and support in these difficult times. Look up localcircles.org/what-is-a-resilience-circle/ for more information. E-mail Holly at relating2u@yahoo.com if you are interested in participating or want more information.

(continued from page 1)

Olsen, Kirsten Gettings, Laura Ell, Dave Knickerbocker, Liz Mills, Mary Sue Witchger, Tarin Kendrick, Tara McKee, Helen Lira.

Many thanks to our friends and supporters who made generous donations: Congressman Mike Quigley-5th District Illinois, Alderman Margaret Laurino-39th Ward, Farmer's Market Garden Center, The Portage Restaurant, Unique Nails, Dorie Westmeyer-Charles Rutenberg Realty, NBC5, Julie Helenius, Amy & Rick Sobin, Bence Brown, Kirsten Gettings. 🌸

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CAPS Report

Beat 1723, October 19th, 2011

by Jane Nagle, CAPS Coordinator

Given recent activity in and around West Walker, there was standing room only at the October CAPS meeting for Beat #1723. With approximately 65-70 citizens in attendance, Commander Staples stated it was the largest turnout at a beat meeting since she arrived in the 17th District. Specific West Walker Issues Discussed:

- The corner of Monticello and Belle Plaine and the immediate surrounding area continue to be an issue with respect to reported criminal activity. Since the prior CAPS Meeting, there have been 60 calls for service and 15 contact cards written but no arrests as of yet. Among other things, there were reports of multiple instances of shots fired, suspected drug dealing and gang activity. The police continue to monitor the situation.
- In the 3800 block of West Irving Park, there have been reports of drug and gang activity with 14 calls and 8 contact cards written since the prior CAPS meeting. Two officers have been specially assigned to this issue.
- From the period of September 23 to October 13, there were eleven armed robberies in the larger neighborhood with 2 occurring in West Walker. The incidents are believed to be related in that multiple offenders approach the victim on the street or in alleys and robbed them of wallets, money and cell phones at gun point. The incidents occurred from late afternoon to late evening into the early morning hours. The offenders are described as three black males between the ages of 20-35, 5'09"-6'02" and 180-200 lbs, often wearing jeans and dark hooded sweatshirts.
- A house on the 4100 block of Monticello was burglarized on October 20th. The police arrested two gang members in connection with the incident.
- No arrests have been made in the attempted armed robbery of the Snappy/Mobil on the corner of Irving Park and Pulaski. The Commander believes it was an isolated incident with the perpetrator living on the south side. Apparently, witnesses saw the offender's car enter the expressway and the MO fits other crimes on the south side.
- Garage break-ins are on the rise. Thieves are breaking into security doors and stealing bikes. Some bikes have had the wheel chained to the frame so the stolen bike was either placed in a vehicle, carried away or had the chain cut. A neighbor on Springfield reminds all residents to always use the deadbolt if you have one, not just the

handle lock. Most deadbolts sold now have a thick metal reinforcing plate that goes behind the cosmetic plate. The reinforcing plate has 3" screws that go through the door jamb and into the framing, and makes it a lot more difficult to force a door open. Because it takes a little more time, installers sometimes do not install the plates, and the cosmetic plate offers little or no resistance to a solid kick. Also, chaining or cabling items like bikes, ladders, snowblowers, power washers, etc. to a wall stud makes them much more secure. That way, whether a thief breaks in or the overhead door is accidentally left open (as can happen to the most careful of us), items in the garage are a lot harder to grab and get away with quickly.

- While not specifically occurring in West Walker, a number of other incidents have been occurring in the surrounding neighborhoods where many of us may pass through. Gang and drug activity were reported on the 4000 block of North Bernard and the 4100 block of North Drake. On the corner of Montrose and St. Louis, there are reports of a prostitute and a pimp practicing their craft and also buying booze for minors. The police have detailed information regarding this situation. In addition, groups of 50-100 people are gathering after school in yards around Roosevelt High School to watch fights.

The Commander stressed over and over that if you see suspicious activity or if something seems out of place, call 911 immediately so that police may respond to an incident in progress. If you wish, state that you want to remain anonymous when you begin speaking to the 911 operator. For incidents which are no longer in progress, remember that rather than calling 911, you may call 311 to have a police officer complete a report for incidents such as theft, criminal damage to property, lost property and other non-emergency situations. Even if a neighbor has already reported an incident or activity that affects a group of neighbors, other neighbors should make separate calls. The more calls received by police with respect to a particular situation, the more of a priority it becomes.

CAPS meetings for our beat are held monthly at the 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski, in the Community Room. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month and typically last one hour. The next meeting for Beat 1723 is Wednesday, November 16, 2011.

Have a CAPS issue? Call CAPS 17th District Phone at 312-742-4410 or email CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org. You can also submit concerns to CAPS online at portal.chicagopolice.org/portal/page/portal/ClearPath. Then, on the left-hand side, click "Report a concern about an issue affecting your neighborhood."

39th Ward Report



Although we've had relatively mild fall weather, we know that winter weather is fast approaching. One of the surest signs of winter in Chicago is the return of the city's annual snow-related parking restrictions.

On Thursday, December 1, 2011, at 3:00 a.m., Chicago reactivates its Winter Overnight Parking restrictions for the most critical arterial streets. 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 restriction is in effect until April 1.

If you have a dog in the city, you must register your pet with the City Clerk's office. Fees for the license vary, with discounts available to residents 65 and older. You can register your dog online at <http://chicityclerk.com/licenses/dogs.html>, or in person at the City Clerk's office in either City Hall or at 5430 W. Gale Street. You may also call 312-744-DOGS to have an application mailed to you.

As always, please contact my office at 773-736-5594 or Ward39@cityofchicago.org with any concerns or questions. For more detailed information on these and other events, please sign up for my e-newsletter at www.AldermanLaurino.com

Sincerely, Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward

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To learn more about the music program, contact Jonathan: jmjbraun@att.net

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Jonathan Braun - director of music
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News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

by Craig Shutt

Food, Toys, Coats Needed for Pantry Holiday Distributions

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry is making a special appeal for holiday food and monetary contributions for our annual Thanksgiving distribution this month. The food is being distributed to clients during their regular weekly visits rather than creating a special distribution as has been done in the past. The change will reduce congestion and manpower needs at the Pantry while ensuring our clients enjoy a delicious and filling Thanksgiving dinner like the rest of us.

We especially need donations of juice, stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned yams and vegetables, instant potatoes, cake mixes and pumpkin-pie filling. Monetary donations will help supplement these donations and provide gift certificates so our largest families can buy a turkey to complete their meal.

We are looking for the same food contributions for our December distribution, along with our toy drive, which will take place on December 21st at our regular hours.

Please help us make the holiday season more joyful for many in our community who otherwise will not be able to enjoy the treats that we may take for granted.

Harvest Thanks: Thanks to everyone who helped to make our Harvest Benefit on October 15th such a success. Thanks especially to the folks at Irving Park Lutheran Church for their unflagging support and help in putting together this first-time event, especially Rev. Brooke Petersen, who coincidentally won a giant harvest cookie during the cake walk (honest!).

Thanks also to our sponsors: Mid-City Subaru (4330 W. Irving Park Rd.), Associates for General Dentistry (4958 W. Irving Park Rd.), Attorney Ami Oseid (3703 W. Irving Park Rd.), Cooney Funeral Home (3918 W. Irving Park Rd.), Portage Park Animal Hospital (5419 W. Irving Park Rd.) and River North Home Solutions (343 W. Erie Street). Additional support was provided by Mariano's Fresh Market, Jewel Food Store (Six Corners) and Little Helpers (gift cards), Steve's Deli (cookies), Trader Joe's (bottled water), Chris Mandolini at Allstate (wine) and Bread & Wine (gift basket).

Special thanks as well to our volunteer committee (Janet Middleton, Mark Johnston, Rich Bradley, Eleanor Kepp, Joe Quartana, Kate Roche, Sandra Schwarzbeck and Lee Stein) and to all the volunteers who helped during the event!



(Clockwise from top) Supporters of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry gathered on October 15th for the group's first-annual Harvest Benefit at Irving Park Lutheran Church. Patrons line up for a harvest dinner provided by La Villa Restaurant. Rev. Brooke Petersen of Irving Park Lutheran Church shows off her prize from winning one of the cake walks during the benefit.
Photos by Craig Shutt

Mount Olive Canvas: Don't forget that the food drive sponsored by Mount Olive Church (3850 N. Tripp Ave.) will take place on November 20th. Fliers will be distributed on November 13th, including a Pantry donation envelope for the first time. Please watch for the flier and donate whatever you can. If you can volunteer to help out either day, please contact Mount Olive at 773/545-3234

Coat Collection: The Pantry is still collecting children's and adults' coats that are gently used (not heavily worn, please) for distribution to our clients later this month. We also are accepting gently used hats, scarves and gloves of all shapes and size.

The distribution has begun and will continue until we run out. Please bring donations to the Pantry at the Irving Park United Methodist Church at 3801 N. Keeler Ave. on Wednesday mornings during Pantry hours. They also can be left any day during church business hours at the Pantry's donation site inside the Grace Street entrance at the bottom of the stairs. For more information, contact Pat at repe1931@sbcglobal.net.



Toy Drive: As you begin your holiday shopping, please remember the children in the neighborhood who don't have some of the things that many of us take for granted. Each year, the Pantry gives parents of about 350 children (ages infant-12 years) the opportunity to "shop" in its "Holiday Gift Room" during the special Holiday distribution to select a toy or game to help make the holidays special.

Collection boxes for unwrapped new toys are located at churches sponsoring the Pantry and other business locations or can be brought to pantry. Cash donations help purchase additional gifts so no age group is underrepresented. Volunteers are needed to help collect toys, organize the toy room, and help with the distribution on December 21st, including translators. For information or to volunteer, contact Vicci Rodgers at viccirodgers@gmail.com or 773-316-9754.

During September, the Pantry served 1,792 people in 669 households. That included 71 new households with 204 people. We appreciate all your help in ensuring that we have never had to turn away one of our neighbors because we ran out of supplies!

WWCA Members

Thanks for renewing or becoming members of WWCA! A list of those neighbors who have joined or renewed as of November, 2011 appears below.

Jim & Judy Cicero	Laurie Gardner
John Groene & Family	The Kreiniks
Ken Kubes & Mindy Finnigan	Liz Mills
Elaine Turek	Bonnie Ryan

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



City Hall, Room 203
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 744-7242

It's Membership Renewal Time!

WWCA MEMBERSHIP runs May 1 through April 30 annually. Your dues help fund a variety of items:

- Ten issues per year of the *West Walker Wire*, delivered to residences and businesses in West Walker, free of charge.
- The annual community garage sale.
- Area non-profit groups like the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, Independence Park, and Independence Library.
- Free e-mail updates on neighborhood events and area crime.
- Free special events, like the Halloween Party and Fall Festival and 4th of July celebration at Independence Park.
- The Art In My Back Yard artistic series.

Bring your 2011-2012 dues to our next WWCA meeting (TBD, Information will follow). Or you can mail in the application below.

WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yearly Membership Dues: Effective May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012

Check one: FAMILY \$15 BUSINESS \$20 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:

E-MAIL: _____

Please make your check payable to: WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Mail or drop off your application and dues to: Jack Prikos, 4238 N. Avers Ave., Chicago, IL 60618

News and Events from Carlson Community Services



**Carlson
Community
Services**

Carlson Community Services, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, serves the Irving Park

community with a variety of outreach efforts.

Shop Local Artists at the West Walker Holiday Fair November 19th

Shop the Third Annual West Walker Holiday Fair for handmade, artisan-quality holiday gifts. The Fair will be held Saturday, November 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym, 4057 N. Harding. Admission to the fair is free.

Over 25 artists will be selling handmade jewelry, ceramics and glass, recycled textiles, soap, photography, letterpress cards, gourmet food, flowering winter bulbs, graphic t-shirts, and hand-knitted accessories. The sale will also feature a holiday hairdo station, kids' craft room and music. Sweets and lunch will be available from Tre Kronor Restaurant.

"The West Walker Holiday Fair is a great way to support local, independent artists and artisans. You can shop for meaningful gifts and give a gift to the community, too, since the fair benefits the Three Brothers Garden," said Sarah Steedman, fair organizer and a participating artist.

The Holiday Fair is a fundraiser for the Three Brothers Garden, an organic food pantry garden in West Walker. Proceeds from table sales and a raffle featuring the works of participating artists will go to support the community garden, which is sponsored by Carlson Community Services. Vegetables raised in the garden are donated to the Irving Park Food Pantry.



The West Walker Holiday Fair on Nov. 19 will feature the handmade works of 25 artists



Clockwise from top: West Walker President Mike Webber is pleased to have won a gift basket from Bread and Wine. Event Co-chair Helen Lira presents the Chula Vista Resort gift certificate to John Olech. The Smartaces, captained by Bill Sherlock, center, show off their winnings, which they promptly donated back to the MAP program.

If you have questions about the West Walker Holiday Art Fair, contact Sarah Steedman at westwalkerartfair@sbcglobal.net or 773.539.1716. For more information about Carlson Community Services, visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Carlson's Trivia Night

Carlson's Trivia Night was attended by a record number of contestants in October, all vying for a cash prize and bragging rights.

A fundraiser for the Magic After-School Place, Trivia Night netted \$4,400 for the program, which serves youths from Belding and Murphy schools. Master of Ceremonies Patrick McKee presided over eight rounds of trivia questions, ranging in content from auto company logos to college stadium capacities. The quiz was written and judged by Meg Buchanan, Bill O'Callaghan and Rich McDermott.

In addition to the M.C. and judges, Liz Mills, Carlson Executive Director, would like to thank event chair and Carlson board member Helen Lira, NBC5, Wentz Family Estates Vineyards, Paddy Mac's Public House and Bread & Wine Restaurant for their support.

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents a Holiday Concert, December 11th

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is pleased to present a holiday choral concert on Sunday, December 11th at 2:00 p.m. "A Potpourri of Christmas Tunes, Old and New" will feature seasonal music sung by soloists and ensemble singers, and an audience sing-along of holiday favorites. The concert will be held in the sanctuary of Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. and will be followed by a bountiful reception with the artists. There is no set price for admission to the concert. Donations of any size will be accepted.

Remaining concerts in the season are: Plymouth State University Chamber Singers on Thursday, January 26th at 7:00 p.m.; the Avanti Guitar Trio on Sunday, February 26, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.; and cellist Dorothy Deen accompanied by pianist Roger L. Bingaman on Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Artists and dates are subject to change

The Irving Park Fine Arts Series, now in its 18th season, was begun by Bingaman, Director of Music at Irving Park Lutheran Church. The intent of the series is to bring high quality, professional musical and theatrical events to the Irving Park neighborhood. The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is funded by Carlson Community Services. For more information, contact Roger Bingaman at 773-267-1667, or visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Chicago Public Libraries Need Your Voice!

by Roberta Bole, President Friends of Independence Library

Recently, the city budget called for layoffs of 284 library staff members and cuts of 8 library hours (Monday & Friday mornings). How will your library services be affected by these cuts?

Children's programs, preschool story times, youth book clubs, school class visits to the library, summer reading program, outreach to schools, daycares, and parks will be eliminated! Delays in receiving ordered books, in reference assistance, and inadequate patron service. The skeleton staff will barely be able to check out materials, shelve returned materials, and add new ones as they arrive!

What can you do? **Call** your alderman and voice how important the library is to you, your family, and your neighborhood. Urge him/her to vote to restore full funding to the library in the budget amendment. **Sign** the online petition at savechicagolibraries.com. **Spread the Word** to your relatives, friends and neighbors, tell them to call their alderman and sign the petition.

Events at the YMCA

By Celia M. Stennett, Member Relations Director

Irving Park YMCA will hold its 2nd annual "Dip, Duck and Dive" Dodgeball Tournament on Friday, November 18th. Warm up begins at 6:00 p.m. Open play follows at 6:30 p.m. and finals launch at 9:30 p.m. Teams are encouraged to have a theme and each team should be at least 6 men and one woman. One woman must play at all times. Team fee is \$50 per team. Open to members and non members.

The gift drive begins November 25th. We are collecting new toys, and we're working in tandem with the Irving Park Food Pantry. We will collect toys in the front hallway until Dec. 23. For more information, call 773-326-2623.



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St. Viator School

Parent Panel

Parents seeking preschool and elementary school options took advantage of the St. Viator Parent Panel

last month. They learned that most of the teachers at St. Viator have Masters Degrees and that St. Viator graduates go on to attend some of the best private and public high schools in the city. Additionally, attendees learned that while St. Viator is a Catholic school, many families of various faiths attend our school.

Primary Gym

Primary Gym is a program held twice a month from November through April for children (pre-K to 3rd grade) and their families who attend St. Viator or live in the surrounding community. On Saturday mornings, converge on the gym for some play time, sports, games and more! To join, please contact Brian Downes at bdownes@sbcglobal.net.

CICS-Irving Park School

Rochelle Lee Awards Recipients 2011-12

Congratulations to CICS-IP teachers Ms. Kathryn Thompson (3rd grade) and Ms. Deena Heller (4th grade). This prestigious award is only given to a select group of teachers. They will receive \$500 in books for their classroom libraries, along with access to outstanding workshops and the best teachers in Chicago.

Book Donation

Special thanks to Half Price Books in Nilens, who donated a box of books for our teachers' libraries. They were scooped up immediately and our students are very grateful.

Bouncing off the Walls

CICS funded the addition of padded storage cabinets and walls for our gym. Our students are safely bouncing off the walls now!

Food Pantry Drive

We are collecting food contributions towards our food drive for Irving Park Food Pantry in November. To donate, please contact Mr. Joe Terrasi at 773-433-5002.

St. Edward School

St. Ed's won the Catholic School League Football Championship, defeating Immaculate Conception 27-6. This is the first championship we've brought home in 25 years!

Open House for prospective Pre-K and Kindergarten families is Thursday, November 17 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. For

more information, please contact Jenn Hegener at RSVP@StEdwardSchool.com. Discovery Sunday Open House is on Sunday, January 29th from 10:30-2:00 p.m. The School is located at 4343 W. Sunnyside. For more information, call 773-736-9133, or visit StEdwardSchool.com.

We have launched our newly-designed website. While still a work in progress, the site has new calendar, allowing parents to see at a glance what's happening. Visit it often as we update photos and content - www.StEdwardSchool.com.

Hungry? Come to the Boy Scout Pasta Dinner on Saturday, November 19 from 4-8pm in Buckley Hall. Tickets are available at the door, or after Sunday Morning Mass (8:00, 9:30 or 11 a.m.). A delicious meal will be served, and a great time will be had by all.

Do you love Christmas cookies but don't have time to make 15 different kinds? If so, then come to the annual Cookie Walk and Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 11, with several seating times available to purchase. Call call 773-736-9133 for information on how to purchase breakfast seating time. Held in Buckley Hall, this event sells out annually! Have breakfast with Santa, and purchase cookies by the pound, homemade by St. Ed's parent bakers.

Disney II School

Disney II PTA awarded one need-based scholarship of \$75 for a student's after school program of choice, which is part of PTA's mission to increase opportunities for all children. This was awarded anonymously. PTA will award three more scholarships for after school programs in the winter or spring sessions.

On October 24th, renowned Chicago chefs from the Chicago Pilot Light Chefs Program visited and demonstrated how to prepare healthy and delicious meals. This event has always been exciting and entertaining for the students, and marked the Pilot Light's 4th visit to Disney II. Special thanks to all of the chefs for participating in this program! Please visit pilotlightchefs.org to learn more.

Special thanks to the parishioners and staff of the United Methodist Church, who provided backpacks with school supplies to students in need, as well as housing two Brownie Troops comprised of girls from Disney II. Disney II sincerely values this community relationship. As the holiday season approaches, the Disney II community will generously donate time and useful items (i.e. coats, cold weather gear) to those in need. Look for the smiling faces of Disney II children as they assist and organize clothing drives and other volunteer initiatives.

Visit disneyiimagnet.org for future events, many of which community members are welcome and invited to attend.



Look What's Happening at IPUMC

The staff at Irving Park United Methodist is growing...and with new faces come fresh ideas and energy. As Pastor I recently celebrated four years with the congregation here in this wonderful neighborhood. I'm excited about the

tremendous team we've gathered to help enrich worship. Hope Reyes is the new Director of Children & Family Ministries. This Fall, children from preschool to fifth grade are taking time each Sunday morning to "Dive Deeper" and "Discover God." The Faith Filled Families series continues one Saturday night a month. In October families gathered to learn more about world hunger and made bread used in communion. Now our youth are adding the Christmas pageant rehearsals to their schedules.

Jonathan Braun, minister of music and worship arts, just announced the start of a Special Music Team (seeking soloists; vocal and instrumental), Percussion Ensemble (experienced and "want to learn" talent is welcome) and a Seasonal Choir (preparing for Christmas!). He invites all lovers of music to join him in preparing for Advent. Stop in for worship and hear this talented young man make the most of our acoustically sound sanctuary.

Michael Bates is a student in his second year of study at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston where he is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree.

Joyce Mylander, church secretary, isn't new. She has been coming to this church since she was born. So, there isn't much Joyce doesn't know when it comes to the history of IPUMC. She keeps things in order for us all.

So it is more than just new windows and a face lift for the facade of this church. There is a lot going on inside. We invite you to come worship with us.

Reverend Vickie Hadaway

The Critics Loved It!

by Marlena Ascher

The Shadow of A Gunman, the fourth play produced by Seanachai Theatre since it arrived on the Northwest Side, closed October 23. Just like Seanachai's other three plays produced at the Irish-American Heritage Center, this play was also nominated for the Joseph Jefferson award – two days after it opened.

WBEZ's Dueling Critics, Jonathan Abarbanel and Kelly Kleiman, highly recommended it: "The costumes and set were period-perfect recreation of a 1920s Dublin tenement. Marrying comedy and tragedy can be tricky, but this production is a remarkably successful marriage of the two. This story is universal and fresh. It could have been written today about people in Kabul, Somalia, or the West Side of Chicago." In addition, the play received rave reviews from Time Out Chicago, Chicago Reader, Windy City Times, Chicago Critic and New City Chicago! These reviews validate the quality of the work Seanachai Theatre produces, and further helps the Northwest Side be known as a destination for the visual, performing, horticultural, and culinary arts!

Expect more great reviews next spring when Seanachai produces Eugene O'Neill's *Moon for the Misbegotten*, with Brad Armacost and Steve Pickering (March 15 through April 22). Mark your calendars now! Seanachai Theatre Company is located in the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox Ave in Chicago's Mayfair neighborhood.

A Christmas Festival

Here is a chance for you and your children to hear the whole Christmas story. Our annual Christmas Festival of stories and song is Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Avenue. This year has an international flair with the parish of St. Augustine Philippine Independent Church joining in this celebration of the season. A festive dinner follows and includes a surprise visit from St. Nicholas and treats for all the children. For more information check our website at www.stjohnschicago.com or call 773-725-9026.

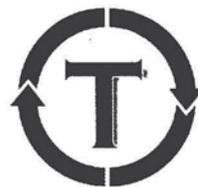


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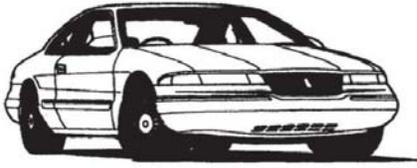
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