

# WESTWALKER ——WIRE——

### **NOVEMBER 2017**

www.westwalker.org

## Head to the Tap for the 5th Annual GIPNA Wine & Cheese Party

The 5th Annual Wine & Cheese Party will be held on Saturday, November 11th from 4-7 pm, at the Independence Tap located

at 3932 W. Irving Park Road. There will be wine, food, a raffle, a silent auction and neighbors to share the good times! Tickets are \$40 in advance or \$45 at the door. Order tickets online at www.gipna.org. Ticket price includes all wine and appetizers. All proceeds will go to the Independence Park Farmers Market and John B. Murphy Elementary School.

WITHIN THE WIRE...

- 2 Dear Neighbor
- 3 45th Ward Report News from Irving Park Lutheran Church
- 4 CAPS Report
- 5 Investing in Real Estate 39th Ward Report
- 6 News and Events from Carlson Community Services
- 7 News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry
- 8 Neighborhood School News

CALENDAR Wine \$ Cheese Fri., Nov. 10 • 5:30 to 8 pm. Schurz Family Movie Night, Free Birds Schurz Auditorium, 3601 N. Milwaukee Sat., Nov. 11 • 7-10 pm Generosity Hoe-Down Square Dance Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym 4057 N. Harding

Wed., Nov. 15 • 7:30 pm Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting 17th District Community Room 4650 N. Pulaski

**Sat., Nov. 18 • 4 - 8 pm** St. Edward Boy Scout Troop 904 Annual All-You-Can-Eat Pasta Dinner Buckley Hall Gym, 4447 N. Lowell

COMMUNITY

Sat., Dec. 2 • 10 am Hanging of the Greens Irving Park Lutheran Church 3938 West Belle Plaine

Sun., Dec., 3 • 8 am - 2 pm Annual Cookie Walk, Santa's Breakfast & Christmas Tree Sale Buckley Hall, 4447 N. Lowell

**Sat., Dec. 9 • 4:30 pm** Holden Advent Worship Irving Park Lutheran Church 3938 West Belle Plaine

Sunday, Dec. 10 • 2:00 pm Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents An Octave Above Holiday Concert Free Admission, Reception with Artists Irving Park Lutheran Church 4100 N. Harding

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

## Dear Neighbor,

IT APPEARS OUR LONG HOT SUMMER IS FINALLY OVER. Now we need to get the leaves out of the gutters and streets before they freeze there for the winter!

In October, the City Council approved funding for our new Independence Branch Library on Elston. I'm told that permits are being pulled and we should see signs of activity soon.

Also, plans are moving forward at the Independence Tap, 3932 W Irving Park Road, to add food service and host live entertainment. Hopefully we will have a new and improved gathering space. Indy Tap has been a good neighbor and these additions should make it even better.

Speaking of food, following up on last month's column, I'd like to highlight one more restaurant which opened in West Walker this year. Taco Max, 4009 N Elston Avenue, recently expanded their menu. My personal experiences have been very good. Try it yourself to see what you think.

There are no more scheduled WWCA general meetings until March. Until then, stay warm, stay safe and read the weekly e-mail blasts for updated Community information.

Mike Webber, President, Pro Tem West Walker Civic Association

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 300 121 North LaSalle Street Chicago, Illinois 60602 (312) 744-7242

#### Dorsi Thillens Finnegan President dthillens@thillens.com 773.279.5768 direct

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## 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 over 100 years of service to the West Walker Community

#### 2017-2018 OFFICERS

President Pro Tem Mike Webber 773.539.8346

Vice President Pro Tem Davor Engel dengel@studiode.com

Vacant

Secretary Treasurer

Sue Gregoire

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER Dorie Westmeyer

#### CAPS COORDINATOR

LizMills@sbcglobal.net

Send crime concerns to Ed Gardner at westwalkercrimealerts@gmail.com

#### WEST WALKER CARRIER STAFF

Carol Barry Eric Bauer Shannan Bunting Joe Crowley Martha Donnelly Alexander & Max Engel The Gettings Jim Medd Mark Pascale Jeanne Pozy & Joel Reese Tricia Ramirez & Mike Hawlitzky Rick & Melanie Reschke Max & Charlie Webber Charlie Westmeyer

EDITOR

Lee Samsami Stein

WEST WALKER EMAIL BLASTS

Anne Marie O'Kelley

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

All story ideas, text, and ads are due a week before the first of the month. Submit ideas and text to: west\_walker\_wire@yahoo.com.

Please include a phone number in case we need to follow up with you. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for space and content. For information on advertising, please contact Shannan Bunting at WWWire@solsticepr.com.



## 45th Ward Report



#### Leaves and Snow Removal Reminders

Please remember that it is illegal to blow leaves into the city streets. When leaves are disposed of in our streets, it clogs the drains and makes it so street sweeper cannot effectively clean the streets.

Additionally, unless Streets and Sanitation witnesses a lawn care contractor blowing leaves into the street, a homeowner can be held responsible for actions the contractor takes. Instead, please bag your leaves and yard debris for the Department of Streets and Sanitation to collect.

Finally, I want to remind residents that Chicago city ordinance requires you to shovel your sidewalks in a timely manner after a snowfall. Not only is it the right thing to do, but you could be fined for failing to clear snow. If you have an elderly or disabled neighbor who is unable to clear their sidewalk, please do the neighborly thing and lend a hand. Together, we can get through the notoriously brutal Chicago winter.

## Irving Park Lutheran Church Hosts the Generosity Hoe-Down

IPLC is hosting the Generosity Hoe-Down in the gym located at 4057 N. Harding, on Saturday November 11th, from 7-10 pm. This is a square dance for all ages and everyone is invited! We celebrate all the ways people give to God through our church.

IPLC Confirmation Students will help out at Irving Park Food Pantry at their Tuesday evening distribution on November 14th.

The IPLC Worship Team invites everyone to join us on Saturday, December 2nd at 10 am for the "Hanging of the Greens," decorating the church for Advent and Christmas. This is a great activity for families–bring children and grandchildren! There's beautiful, meaningful decorations to arrange and plenty of treats to share.

Start December with the beautiful melodies of Holden Evening Prayer, in a special Saturday Advent worship service! Gather by candlelight in the sanctuary at 4:30 pm on Saturday December 9th and sing of the coming of the light of the world. Then head over to the parsonage next door, for an open house of appetizers and special beverages!

## **REAL ESTATE NEWS**



By Dorie Westmeyer Realtor®, MBA, ADPR Your Neighborhood Realtor!

## Should You Stage Your Home to Sell?

#### Hi Neighbors,

Home staging is the art of decorating your home to sell quickly and for top dollar. According to the National Association of Realtors, 49% of buyers' agents say it increases the offer price and 62% of sellers' agents says it decreases the time to sell the home.

Deciding whether or not to stage your home can depend on your budget, whether your home is occupied or vacant, the condition of your home & the price range for which your home will sell. You could hire a professional stager to make recommendations from repurposing the furnishings you own to bringing in new furniture & accessories. Costs typically start at \$500. Another option is to consider virtual staging. Digital photographs of your rooms show a variety of home décor styles and options to appeal to a broad range of prospective buyers. Virtual staging typically costs about \$100 per room.

As your experienced Neighborhood Realtor, I have enjoyed working with many neighbors & I can suggest a variety of No Cost and Low Cost ways to help you prepare your home for sale. Together we can decide the right approach for you.

If you're thinking of selling in the next 24 months, and want to get the highest sale price, please call me for a free home consultation.

Call Dorie, Your Neighborhood Realtor 847-989-4870

### **Dorie Westmeyer**

charles rutenberg realty 847-989-4870 · Dorie@DorieWestmeyer.com

## **CAPS** Report

## Beats 1722 & 1723 Meeting, October 18, 2017

**Present:** CPD Detective, CAPS Officer Hamid, 3 Beat Officers, Gail Beitz, 39th Ward Office (Alderman Laurino)

A detective spoke about recent burglaries occurring in the 17th District. He passed around photos of burglary suspects. The detective feels that it is too easy for people to bond out of jail and they're just picked up again for a similar crime.

A shooting occurred in the 4600 block of Monticello. Some involvement with the Russell house is suspected. No arrests have been made. A resident complained about a vagrant man who sits at the corner of Central Park & Irving Park. The resident is concerned because the man harasses kids on their way to Murphy School. Officer Hamid advised that if people stopped offering money and food to beggars, the problem of panhandling would be reduced. The man in question is known to CPD, has been arrested many times and has mental health issues. Four residents spoke about drug dealing occurring on different blocks. Officer Hamid encouraged them to work with CAPS by providing descriptions of the suspected dealers and times of day that dealing is going on. Cameras on buildings or in the alley can help. Officer Hamid reported that a tactical unit did three different missions in the 4100 block of Pulaski as follow up to suspected drug dealing. Officer Hamid didn't know if any arrests had been made as a result of the surveillance.

Officer Hamid warned of telephone scams targeting the elderly. In the scams, someone calls claiming to be the IRS or the friend of a relative in jail. The meeting ended with door prizes being awarded – light timers, steering wheel locks and a door security bar.

As always, call 911 to report suspicious activity or individuals in your neighborhood and provide detailed descriptions of the individuals and vehicles involved in any incident. Even if a neighbor has already reported the incident or activity, other neighbors should make separate calls. The police often look at the number of calls for service in determining the allocation of officers and resources with respect to a particular situation or incident. CAPS meetings for our beat are currently held

Continued on page 9

**How's the Fall West Walker Market?** 



Under Contract - 4034 N. Harding & 4249 N. Hamlin



SOLD - 4015 N. Harding & 4017 N. Harding

## Hot. It's a Sellers Market!

"Dorie has great knowledge of the neighborhood and did a wonderful job of advising us of what to ask for the sale price, how to stage the house, and in showing the house effectively. We had buyers before the house was actually listed and we received a good price." – Mary Byrns

If you are thinking of selling in the next 24 months, and want to get the highest sale price, please call me for a free home consultation.



Dorie Westmeyer Realtor®, MBA, ADPR Your Neighborhood Realtor

Dorie Westmeyer · 847-989-4870 · charles RUTENBERG REALTY · Dorie@DorieWestmeyer.com

## **Investing in Real Estate**

#### by Audrey Cosgrove, Attorney

Who among us hasn't thought about making a living, or at least have a side gig investing in real estate? There are so many options to invest beyond the traditional landlord/tenant model that it's worth looking into, and it's a fun (at least to me) way to build your wealth. Here's a brief description of real estate investments. In the next few newsletters I'll discuss the more common models in more detail. Perhaps you'll be inspired to begin investing.

1 Renting your place on Airbnb: Yes, this is real estate investing and a way to increase your income to save for a down payment on a "real" real estate investment.

2. House hacking: That is, renting out a portion of the home you live in, either rooms in a house or units in an apartment building. If you can qualify for a home loan you can qualify for a loan on this type of property.

3. Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT's). Why get your hands dirty? REIT's invest in different types of property; apartment buildings, shopping malls, vacation properties, here and internationally, manage the properties and distribute the profits to their investors.

4. Real estate trades: If you have access to a lot of cash and have a good eye for spotting deals, real estate traders buy properties that are in good condition. They hold them for a few months without making any improvements and resell them later for a profit.

5. Real estate flipping: Unlike what you see on HGTV, it's not all about choosing backsplashes. You need to be good at spotting deals, like a real estate trader, but also know how much things cost to fix because you are buying and improving properties.

6. Real Estate Investment Clubs: Do you picture grannies in shawls planning their next purchase? I do. You buy properties individually or in small groups, pool your income and expenses and share in the profits.

7. Property tax sales: You make money on the interest, sometimes you get the property. You buy the taxes at county tax sales and wait for the homeowner to pay you back for the taxes plus interest. About 25% of the time the homeowner will be unable to pay their taxes and you keep the property.

As a lawyer, I can't give advice about the best way to go, but I can help you once you decide to invest in real estate.

Audrey Cosgrove is the owner of The Cosgrove Law Firm L.L.C.





Please join us as we honor Mayfair and North Mayfair veterans, firefighters, and police officers for the many sacrifices they made, and their dedication to preserving our freedom and safety, on Sunday, November 5, from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m., at the southwest corner of Lawrence and Keeler Avenues (by the Lawrence-

Keeler Memorial), for Mayfair Remembrance Day: A Salute to American Heroes.

As the leaves finally begin to fall and you get to raking, please remember to keep leaves out of the street as much as possible. Leaves and yard debris are a major component of clogs that cause flooding on our streets. After you bag your leaves and yard debris, please call 311 to schedule a bagged leaf pick-up.

Please remember that on Friday, December 1, Chicago reactivates its Winter Overnight Parking Ban for the most critical arterial streets. Signs for this seasonal restriction are permanently posted. Parking on arterial streets where these signs are posted will result in vehicles being ticketed and towed between the hours of 3:00 a.m. until 7:00 a.m., whether or not there is snow on the ground. This parking restriction will be in effect until April 1.

For 39th Ward updates, please sign-up for my newsletter at www.AldermanLaurino.com or follow my Facebook page. As always, contact my office at 773-736-5594 or e-mail us with your concerns or questions.

Sincerely, Margaret Laurino Alderman, 39th Ward



#### Barry Bebart, AIA Architect

Licensed Architect Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin

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23 years of experience in Chicago.

773-844-4580 barry@bebartarchitecture.com

## News and Events from Carlson Community Services



Carlson Community Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit connecting

the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service.

unity

#### Save the Date for Free Holiday Concert 12/10



The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee will present a free holiday concert featuring An Octave Above on Sunday, December 10th at 2:00 p.m. An Octave Above, one of the hottest

An Octave Above will perform a holiday concert on December 10th at 2 pm at Irving Park Lutheran Church.

a cappella vocal groups in Chicago, features eight professional singers who combine their vocal talent with a love of a cappella harmonies. The group of four men and four women will perform holiday favorites along with doo wop, jazz and pop standards. Fine Arts patrons may remember An Octave Above from their crowdpleasing performance in 2010.

The concert will be held at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. Admission to the concert is free of charge, although donations are gladly welcomed. A special holiday reception with the artists follows the concert, hosted by the Fine Arts Committee. Bring the family!

The 2017/2018 Fine Arts season is dedicated to the memory of Nancy and Gordon Johnson, the Irving Park Lutheran Church members who with Artistic Director



Join us for Ward Night Tuesday evenings from 5-7<sub>PM</sub>

#### Contact the 45th Ward Office

4754 N. Milwaukee Ave. • Chicago, IL 60630 Phone: 773-286-4545 ward45@cityofchicago.org www.ward45.org



Michael Mills and Melanie Reschke show off vegetables bound for the Irving Park Food Pantry.

Roger Bingaman founded the series in 1994. Future concerts in the series include a saxophone quartet on January 28th and a string quartet at a date to be determined. All performances are at 2:00 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church.

#### Another Garden Season in the Books!

Three Brothers Garden proved a steady producer of vegetables in the 2017 season, under the green thumbs of garden co-chairs Rebecca Haneberg and Ruth Olech. With a final harvest yet to be tallied, the garden is closing in on 500 lbs. of produce grown for the Irving Park Food Pantry. This year's crops ranged from tomatoes to kale to cucumbers and carrots, plus lettuces, peppers and radishes. Garden production was down about 100 lbs. from last year, perhaps due to a late, wet spring and soil in need of more nutrients. The co-chairs and committee are eager to amend the soil and start planning for next year!

Regular volunteers in addition to Ruth and Rebecca were Elmer Haneberg, Melanie Reschke, Darcie Wadycki, Sara Anderson, Sue and Ellen Ryan and Liz Mills.

Our summer Garden Intern Michael Mills summed up the garden well, "The garden brightens moods and brings friends and neighbors together. A friend of mine who volunteered said, 'It just feels so good to get outside and do something productive.' It does feel great to get outside to do something productive for your community. And that's what the garden is all about."

Volunteers are always needed and welcome. Watch the West Walker Wire for notices about volunteer opportunities in 2018.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series and Three Brothers Garden are programs of Carlson Community Services, a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Its mission is to connect the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. For more information, contact Liz Mills at 773-398-6766 or visit carlsoncommunityservices.org.

## News From Irving Park Community Food Pantry

By Craig Shutt

#### Pantry's Holiday Distributions Need Donations

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry has begun gathering donations for its two holiday distributions, in November and on December 20th. We are asking for contributions of funds, food and fun (i.e., books and toys) to make the season brighter for those in our community who need a helping hand during the holiday season.

In November, we provide clients during our regular weekly distributions with additional meat and trimmings for a Thanksgiving dinner. On December 20th, we hold a special distribution at which clients receive the makings for a full holiday dinner and can take home a gift for each of their children, along with a book and stocking stuffer.

For special distributions, we are especially in need of juice, stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned yams and vegetables, instant potatoes, cake mixes, Jell-O and pumpkin-pie filling.

We typically give out about 400 toys to children (up to 12 years old). For some, it will be the only gift they receive. We especially need gifts for older children (10+ years), especially boys. Soccer balls and basketballs are popular options. We also run out of books for all ages early in the day. We find older boys enjoy biographies, sports and other nonfiction books.

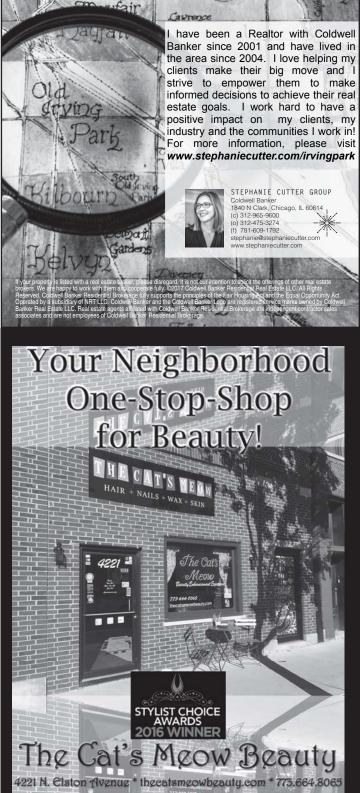
Unwrapped new toys and food donations can be brought to the Pantry at the Irving Park United Methodist Church (3801 N. Keeler Ave.) on Wednesday mornings (9 to noon) or on Tuesday evening, Nov. 14th (6 to 7:30 p.m.). Local businesses also have drop-off boxes; please check our Facebook page for locations.

The deadline for contributing toys is Friday, December 15th. Volunteers are needed to collect toys, organize the toy room, and help with toy distribution on December 20th. Please contact Sara Yoest at sara.yoest74@gmail.com.



Volunteers prepare the stocking-stuffers and book table for clients during the Pantry's 2016 holiday program. Books often are in short supply. Photo by Craig Shutt







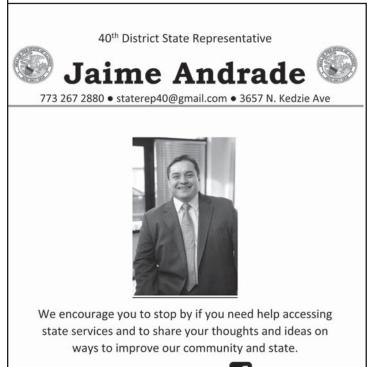
## Schurz High School

Join us at **Family Movie Night** on Friday, November 10 at 5:30 to 8 pm. Due to a great response to last month's movie night,

Schurz has decided to make this a monthly event! All are welcome! Doors open at 5:30, movie starts t 5:45.

"Free Birds," the greatest turkey movie of all time, will be shown in the Schurz Auditorium. Admission is free, and popcorn and snacks will be available for purchase. All proceeds will go to participating schurz clubs.

Schurz Hosts Career Day The Schurz College and Career team is hosting a school wide career day on Wednesday, November 8th and 29th from 8:30-9:15 am to provide students with the opportunity to meet and learn from volunteers and their chosen career paths. We hope that our Career Day will provide a platform to develop more meaningful and personal connections between our students, alumni, parents, teachers and friends of Schurz. If you are interested in sharing your career experience(s) with our high school students, please fill out the form online at: https://goo.gl/6ThPQN, and the Friends of Schurz will contact you for more details. Thank you for your continued support of Schurz High School!





IL 40<sup>th</sup> District-Jaime Andrade

## **CICS Irving Park**

We will celebrate World Kindness Day on Monday November 13th, as our entire student body will participate in acts of kindness. Our fifth graders, for example, are hosting a fundraiser to collect socks. Did you know that socks are the most needed and most under-donated item to homeless shelters? We will also collect and donate travel-sized toiletries to La Casa Norte, a group of shelters that help homeless teens and families in our community. We hope that this small act of kindness will make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Later this month, CICS Irving Park will host Innovation Night, where parents and students can visit our newly designed learning studios, see what our enrichment teams have been working on, and interact with the various technology used in our classrooms every day. This great event is always a wonderful opportunity to see our CICS Irving Park community in action.

Interested in learning more about CICS Irving Park? Come see what we have to offer! Call 773-433-5000. Follow us on Facebook @CICSIRVINGPARK or at cicsirvingpark.org.

## St. Edward School

In September, Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, named St. Edward School a 2017 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. There are approximately 132,400 schools in the country and about 400 schools each year are awarded the Blue Ribbon School. The Blue Ribbon School recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence. The Blue Ribbon Award is a coveted award and one that is given for a five year period.

This month's school tour is November 14. Registration begins at 8:30 am followed by campus tour at 9 am. Open to all prospective parents with children entering school or transferring older students. To RSVP please email rsvp@stedwardschool.com.

**St. Edward Boy Scout Troop 904 Annual All-You-Can-Eat Pasta Dinner** is November 18 from 4 - 8 pm in Buckley Hall Gym (4447 N. Lowell). Tickets at the door are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children (10 and under). Enjoy some delicious pasta and all you can eat salad bar!

Join us for the **Annual Cookie Walk, Santa's Breakfast and the Christmas Tree Sale** all in Buckley Hall on Sunday December 3 from 8 am -2 pm.

For more information on the school call **773-736-9133**, or visit www.stedwardschool.com.

#### www.westwalker.org



#### Continued from page 4

monthly at the 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski, in the Community Room. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month and typically last one hour. The next regularly scheduled meeting for Beat 1723 is Wednesday, November 15, 2017. If you or a neighbor have been the victim of a crime and you would like to share that information with your neighbors, e-mail the details to westwalkercrimealerts@gmail.com. The exact address of the crime and name of the victim will be kept anonymous.

Here's how to reach or follow the 17th District CAPS office.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CAPS.017 Twitter: @ChicagoCAPS17 Email: CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org Phone: 312-742-4588 Event Calendar: http://home.chicagopolice.org

Liz Mills CAPS Coordinator



Nov. 27 - Dec. 2 Gift items Dec. 4 -9 Bibles



...receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness... <sub>Rom 5:17</sub>

### **Chicago Bibles & Books**

3931 W. Irving Park Rd. 773.478.0550 Monday to Saturday 10-6



Check out our updated website www.biblesandbooks.com

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