



WEST WALKER WIRE

NOVEMBER 2006

www.westwalker.org

Community Garden Set to Grow

Folks, there's a new garden that all West Walker residents can enjoy!

More than a dozen adults and children turned out on Oct. 7 to help weed, rake and plant for the Carlson Community Garden, a perennial shat plot located in one of the sections constructed by the Irving Park Triangle Garden Club on Berteau Avenue near Elston Avenue. The new garden is sponsored by the Carlson Ministries of Irving Park Lutheran Church.

A huge **thank you** goes to Jack Prikros at the Farmer's Market Garden Center, 4110 N. Elston Ave., who donated 31 plants, soil materials, tools and hours of time by one of his gardeners, Danny, "The Rototiller King." Thanks also to Melanie Reschke for spreading the word, Conni Heminover for garden design, and to the neighbors on the 4000 block of Avers Avenue, for donating plant divisions to the new garden. And **big thanks** to everybody who showed up on a Saturday morning to play in the dirt!

If anyone would like to relocate some of their shade perennials & ground covers or spring bulb divisions to the new garden, there's still some space. Contact Conni Heminover at: 773-583-4241.

Ald. Laurino to Speak at November Meeting

Wondering what's new in the 39th Ward? Have a question for Ald. Margaret Laurino? Then don't miss the November Meeting, where Ald. Laurino will discuss the state of the 39th Ward. The meeting will be held on Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m., at the Latvian Community Center, 4146 N. Elston Ave.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Nov. 21 • 7:30 p.m.

WWCA General Meeting

"What's Happening in the 39th Ward"

Ald. Margaret Laurino

Refreshments served!

All WWCA Meetings take place at:

Latvian Community Center

4146 N. Elston Ave.

Dec. 3 • 9:00—12:30 p.m.

2nd Annual Home Improvement

Business Fair; Sponsored by

Pulaski Elston Business Association

& Ald. Margaret Laurino

St. Edward Church

4343 W. Sunnyside Ave.

Dec. 3 • 3:00 p.m.

Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser

Baked Tomato Restaurant

4358 N. Elston Ave.

Dec. 10 • 2:00 p.m.

"Peace Tales Around the World"

Kidworks Touring Theatre Co.

Performing Arts Series,

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee

Irving Park Lutheran Church

4100 N. Harding Ave.

Dec. 15

Deadline for Filing Appeals

To Real Estate Tax Assessment

(See story, Page 4)

Dec. 19 • 7:30 p.m.

WWCA Annual Holiday Party

Dec. 20 • 7:00 p.m.

Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting

Roosevelt High School

3436 W. Wilson Ave.

WITHIN THE WIRE ...

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Dear Neighbor:

Since Thanksgiving is but days away, I can't help but use this opportunity to say thanks to the many individuals who answered my plea for help last month. I'm delighted to share that we have a new *Wire* editor, **Beth Tigie**. Beth works in the marketing field and has a degree in journalism. I'm certain she will be a worthy successor to **Priscilla Brown**, who did so much to improve the *Wire* over the past year. Thanks also go to **Laurie Gardner** and **Tara McKee** for agreeing to share the responsibilities of newsletter ad sales, formerly handled so ably by **Pat Eisenhart**. And last, but not least, thanks to the new *Wire* carriers, **Tara McKee**, **Derek Clark** and **Connie Engel**, as well as all of our carriers.

Thanks go out to our great **Special Events** committee, headed by **Helen Lira**, for putting the Fall Fest together. It was great fun. Please see Page 3 for more details and acknowledgments.

Earlier in the month, a handful of West Walker residents joined me at the Fine Wine and Cheese fundraiser to benefit the renovation of the **Women's Building** at Independence Park. Over \$5,400 was raised that night and a wonderful time was had by everyone. I'll keep you posted about other events being planned to benefit the renovation.

Congratulations to Martha Maldonado of Lexa's Creative Floral Design and West Walker resident Bill Dugan (the Fish Guy) on the creation of **Gallery M** and **Wellfleet**. They've joined forces to bring an art gallery and fine, fixed-price dining to our community. Both Bill and Martha have been strong supporters of the WWCA, and we wish them great success. For more information on their collaboration, go to www.fishguy.com.

The **Vision** and **Zoning** committees continue their work to bring the community's Vision to life. In an effort to bring more retailers and restaurants to our area, **Davor Engel** accompanied Ald. Margaret Laurino, developers and commercial real estate agents on a bus tour that included West Walker. A second round of meetings was held to review revisions to a proposed 27-unit condominium project at 4247 N. Elston Ave. A meeting was also held with a developer who presented plans for the demolition of two residences and construction of a condo building at 4121-25 N. Pulaski Rd. That project does not require a zoning variance, so the meeting was informational only.

According to Dawn D'Amico of the Pulaski Elston Business Association, Sabatino's Restaurant purchased the building formerly occupied by Ace Hardware. Although we have not yet confirmed how they plan to use it, it appears that along with the anticipated opening of Smoque BBQ, the neighborhood's restaurant landscape is about to improve!

Let us be thankful for the blessing of Community bestowed upon West Walker. Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours.

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

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Vice-President	Evan Price 267-1740
Secretary	Mike Webber 539-8346
Treasurer	Bob Begecke 267-5942

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Debbie Koller
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Maria Menard
John & Betsy Minor
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Pat & Marianne Turk

Editor Priscilla Brown & 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, please see our Advertising Rates, Page 7.

Wanted: Local Arts Group

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.

Lions Club Seeks Area Chapter

The Mayfair Lions Club would like to help establish a Lions Club in the West Walker area. The national Lions organization was begun in 1917, and is the world's largest service organization. Its mission is to help those less fortunate. If you would like to explore starting a Lions Club chapter, phone Judith Toft at 773-763-0662. The Lions' world conference is being held in Chicago in 2007, so this is a great year to join!



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Fall Fest A Success!

Thanks to the hard work of West Walker volunteers and the generosity of local merchants, West Walker's second annual Fall Fest on Oct. 22 was a success.

About 75 adults and children enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon, which included pumpkin painting, crafts, music by Annalee Koehn and Danny Miller, refreshments, and of course, the pie baking contest.

The bake-off's first place winner was Mel Westmeyer, who took home a \$50 gift certificate from Smoque BBQ Restaurant. The second place prize (\$25 gift certificate to Smoque) went to Gloria Lasley, while Roberta Bole was the third place winner of a \$10 gift certificate to Jewel. Thanks to our judges, Barry Sorkin from Smoque, Ald. Margaret Laurino and chef Ed Gardner.

The winner of the Fall Basket Raffle, donated by Dorie Westmeyer of Charles Rutenberg Realty, was Linda Valencia. Two tickets to a Bulls game, donated by NBC5, were won by Mary Perillo.

Congratulations to our winners, and thanks to the volunteers and additional donors:

Helen Lira	Peg Klimek
Bob Beigeske	Tara McKee
Laurie Gardner	Dorie Westmeyer
Jane Nagle	Maureen Nelson
Caroline Mills	Rep. Rich Bradley
Irving Park Lutheran Church	
Farmer's Market Garden Center	
Tarin & Steve Kendrick (AffyTapples)	



Pumpkin painting requires concentration!

Office Report: 39th Ward



Dear Neighbor,

I hope everyone enjoys a very safe and Happy Thanksgiving! And even though the snow will soon begin to fall, our neighborhood parks are still as active as ever. The **Chicago Park District** has enough activities to keep everyone busy well into the new year. Cultural performances, conservatory events, holiday camps and workshops for all ages, and holiday tournaments are just a few activities hosted by the park district. For more information, please contact your local park or visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

I will be co-hosting a **Local Home Improvement Business Fair** next month with the Pulaski Elston Business Association. Come learn about what local businesses have to offer, and meet representatives from the Chicago Bungalow Association. This event is free and will take place on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Saint Edward Church, 4343 W. Sunnyside Ave, in the lower level. If you have a business and are interested in participating, please contact Dawn D'Amico at PEBA, 773-545-0941.

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

Time to Appeal Your Property Tax Assessment

It's not too late to appeal your 2006 property tax assessment. The deadline to file appeals for Jefferson Township, which includes West Walker, is Dec. 15.

In a Nov. 2 public meeting sponsored by Ald. Margaret Laurino and State Rep. Rich Bradley, residents were encouraged to file an appeal directly with the Cook County Board of Review. To get the appropriate form, follow these steps:

- Call the Board of Review at 312-603-5542;
- Give the clerk your name, address and property index number;
- Tell the clerk you want a complaint form mailed to you.

Information and forms also are available at Ald. Laurino and Rep. Bradley's offices. For more information, phone Danielle Hagen in Ald. Laurino's office at 773-736-5594; or Rafael Delgado in Rep. Bradley's office, 773-794-9444.

Let the Bells Ring!

Dear Neighbor:

The beautiful church bells we have in our neighborhood are getting quite costly to maintain. The last repair bill was almost \$1,300!

I thought it would be nice as a gesture from everyone in the community who enjoys our church bells as I do to give toward their maintenance. You can write a check to Irving Park Lutheran Church, with "Bells" on the memo line.

Contributions can be dropped off or mailed to: Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave., Chicago, IL 60618. Or, you could mail them to me: Melanie Reschke, 4133 N. Springfield Ave., Chicago, IL 60618.

Thank you for supporting one of the many features that makes West Walker such a great place to live!

Melanie Reschke

'Peace Tales' for Fine Arts Series

Celebrate the holiday season with your family when the Kidworks Touring Theatre Co. presents "Peace Tales Around the World" at 2:00 p.m. on Dec. 10 at the Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. The event will launch the twelfth season of the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee's Performing Arts Series.

A 45-minute presentation loaded with audience participation, "Peace Tales" leads the audience in a hands-on journey for world peace. The Interfaith Children's Choir of Irving Park also will perform, with a holiday reception to follow. There is no set admission charge, but a free-will offering is requested.

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Food Pantry Needs Donors and Volunteers!

Thanks to everyone who brought food items for the Irving Park Community Food Pantry to the WWCA's Fall Fest on Oct. 22. The need at the food pantry has never been greater, so all donations are gratefully received. In addition to non-perishable food items, the pantry needs:

- can openers;
- travel-size toiletries;
- Toys-R-Us gift cards;
- clean, doubled plastic grocery bags; and
- blankets, winter coats, hats, gloves, and other warm clothing;

Items can be brought to the Nov. 21 West Walker meeting, or delivered to Pat Eisenhart at: 4118 N. Avers Ave.

Volunteers also are needed to set up for the pantry's holiday distribution, Dec. 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the Food Pantry, 3801 N. Keeler Ave. For information, visit: www.irvingparkfoodpantry.com, or call Kathy Howe at 773-283-6296.

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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West Walker Civic Association — General Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2006

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

The first order of business was a presentation by **Jim Olszanski** with the **Chicago Police Department**. Mr. Olszanski gave a wide-ranging talk on gang activity in the city, particularly in West Walker and other neighborhoods in the Irving Park area. We were reminded that the primary activity of gangs is the selling of street drugs. Residents were encouraged to report suspicious activity and to call again if the first call went unanswered. Those with internet access were encouraged to go to Citizen ICAM (<http://12.17.79.6/ctznicam/>) to see local crime statistics similar to those given out at the CAPS Beat meetings.

Treasurer **Bob Begeske** reported a general account balance of \$1,619.41 and a banner account balance of \$7,972.41. We were reminded that WWCA dues are now due.

Ms. Mills gave the President's Report, and reported on the recent Library Facilities meeting that she and **Roberta Bole** attended. At the meeting, library representatives were made aware of plans to relocate the Independence branch library to Kedzie and Belle Plaine Avenues if a \$7 million Illinois First grant passes the General Assembly's November veto session.

Evan Price reported on the recent meetings with the property owner and developer seeking to build on the 4247 N. Elston Ave. site. Additional cosmetic changes had been presented to the Zoning Committee which are now being evaluated. Concerns about density are still being addressed.

Ms Mills reported that we anticipated the West Walker Banners were to be installed soon.

Dorie Westmeyer reported that the Fall Festival would be held on Oct. 22 from 2:00– 4:00 p.m. at the Irving Park Lutheran Church. Also, the Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association was set to hold a wine and cheese fundraiser on Nov. 4, 2006 to benefit the restoration of the Bungalow in Independence Park.

Melanie Reschke reported on the Oct. 16 meeting of the **Pulaski Elston Business Association**. Coming events include the **2nd Annual Home Improvement Business Fair** on Dec. 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Edward Church, 4343 W. Sunnyside Ave. Also, that same day at the Baked Tomato, 4358 N. Elston Ave., a fund-raiser for **Habitat for Humanity** will be held starting at 3:00 pm.

Mr. Begeske introduced and thanked our new *Wire* carriers.

A new *Wire* editor, **Beth Tigue**, was plucked from the audience to help us produce the *Wire*. (Joy!) **Laurie Gardner** volunteered as *Wire* advertising sales representative.

Conni Heminover reported on the installation of the new Community Garden, located at Springfield and Berteau Avenues. The **Farmers Market Garden Center** contributed many plants and supplies, and Ms. Heminover coordinated the planting. Things should be thriving next spring. Stop by!

Calendar reminders were given and the meeting was adjourned.

West Walker Wire Advertising Rates

___ Business \$15 / month ___# / months Total \$ _____
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- **ALL AD ARTWORK must be black-and-white and is due by the first of the month.**
- **WE PREFER that ad artwork be submitted as a file attachment, sent in an e-mail to: ferrislaura@sbcglobal.net. Camera-ready "hard copy" versions also are acceptable.**

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

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T 773.583.3400 F 773.583.5145

CAPS Update: Beat 1723

The next meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Dec. 20, at Roosevelt High School, 3436 W. Wilson Ave.
(Note: This is a changed location.)

Beat 1723 boundaries are: Irving Park Rd. to Lawrence Ave., Pulaski Rd. to Kimball Ave. West Walker residents are encouraged to stay informed about crime and safety in our neighborhood by attending CAPS meetings, which are held on the third Wednesday of each month.

Top 10 Crimes for Beat 1723 between Sept. 13 and Oct. 17 were: Criminal Damage to Vehicle (22 incidents); Domestic Battery Simple (21); Theft \$300 and under (16); Simple Battery (15); Motor Vehicle Theft (14); Assault (13); Criminal Damage to Property (13); Theft over \$300 (9); Burglary/Forcible Entry (8); and Public Peace Violation/Reckless Conduct (7). A copy of last month's statistics will be at this month's West Walker meeting, or go to www.cityofchicago.org/icam.

Are you not sure when to call 311? A listing from the Department of Streets and Sanitation of frequently requested issues will be available at this month's West Walker meeting. Always get a tracking number to be able to follow up.



Save the Date!

Dec. 18 7:30 p.m.



WWCA'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

*Latvian Community Center
4146 N. Elston Ave.*

WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yearly Membership Dues: Effective September 1, 2006 through August 31, 2007

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Please note your email address if you would like to receive e-mail updates

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Please make your check payable to: WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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