



# WEST WALKER WIRE

FEBRUARY 2007

[www.westwalker.org](http://www.westwalker.org)

## Aldermanic Candidate to Speak at February Meeting

Chris Belz, Aldermanic candidate for the 39th Ward will speak at the next West Walker Civic Association meeting on Tuesday, February 20th at 7:30 p.m. Belz is opposing 39th Ward Alderman Margaret Laurino in the February 27th primary election. Join your neighbors to learn about Belz's qualifications and vision for the 39th Ward.

### People are talking.... About the WWCA Winter Social!

The time is right to stop hibernating from the cold and get out and socialize! Please join us at Gallery M on Saturday, February 24th, from 7-10 p.m. Gallery M is the newly renovated venue above Lexa's Creative Floral Design, located at 4433 N. Elston Avenue. The Gallery will be decorated in a spectacular winter wonderland theme for our event. Your evening will include scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, desserts, accompanying wines and a variety of beers and soft drinks.

#### An evening not to be missed!

Reserve your ticket today by calling (773) 406-9821 or emailing: [reservations@westwalker.org](mailto:reservations@westwalker.org)

Be sure to reserve soon, as space is limited. Ticket price is \$20.00 per person and will not be sold at the door.

West Walker Winter Social  
Saturday, February 24th, 2007  
Gallery M, 4433 Elston  
(Enter thru Lexa's Creative Floral Design)  
7-10 p.m.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**February 20 • 7:30 p.m.**  
WWCA General Meeting  
*Latvian Community Center*  
4146 N. Elston Ave.

**February 20**  
On-line registration begins for  
Independence Park's Spring Programs

**February 21 • 7:00 p.m.**  
Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting  
*17th District Police Station,*  
*Community Room - 4650 N. Pulaski*

**February 22 • 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**  
Chicago International Charter School  
(CICS) – Avondale Open House  
*3820 N. Spaulding*

**February 24**  
In-person Registration begins for  
Independence Park's Spring Programs

**February 24 • 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.**  
West Walker Winter Social  
*Gallery M - 4433 N. Elston Ave.*

**February 25 • 2:00 p.m.**  
Irving Park Fine Arts Committee 2006-  
2007 Performing Arts Series Presents  
Classical Guitarist Christopher Laughlin  
*Irving Park Lutheran Church,*  
*4100 N. Harding, Chicago*

**February 27**  
Consolidated Primary Election Day

**March 20 • 7:30 p.m.**  
WWCA General Meeting  
*Latvian Community Center*  
4146 N. Elston Ave.

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

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# Dear Neighbor:

Just in time to beat those winter blahs – it's the West Walker Winter Social! Thanks to the Special Events Committee, we'll be enjoying drinks and hors d'oeuvres, dessert and each other's company on Saturday, February 24th at Gallery M, on Elston just north of Montrose. Looking for the antidote to cabin fever? Make your reservation for the Winter Social today!

I hope you've noticed the beautiful West Walker banners on Pulaski, Elston and Irving Park welcoming people to our neighborhood. Thanks to the tenacity of **Jackie Kazarian** and **Cindi Webber**, phase one sales are complete and we're moving on to phase two. Several banners were sponsored by neighbors who pooled their money to share the cost of the banner. For details on how to sponsor your own banner, see page 3.

You may have noticed demolition of several buildings on Elston adjacent to the former Labe Bank. The bank, now First Chicago Bank & Trust is making room for a new building and parking lots, which will replace the existing building. We'll hear about their plans from a representative of the bank at our March meeting.

**Alderman Laurino** is interested in meeting with our Safe Neighborhoods Committee to talk about traffic issues. There is legislation before the City Council to increase fines for people who ignore stop signs to \$100, which includes a mandatory court date. If passed, the new penalty should help reduce scofflaws, but more enforcement is needed.

In other committee news, the Vision Committee's **Davor Engel** is working with developers to jump start development on Elston. Other Vision Committee members are working on tasks to bring our Vision to life, including **Marvin Weinstein** who's starting a sub-committee to bring an arts organization to our neighborhood. If you'd like to get involved with any of these committees, contact me at [president-westwalker@westwalker.org](mailto:president-westwalker@westwalker.org) or 773.267.9298.

Back in 1998, meetings with area community organizations, the city and the state were held to plan the streetscaping of Irving Park Rd. from Central Park to Pulaski Rd. Nine years later, the planter medians are in place, but decorative lighting, benches and a community identifier remain unfunded by the city. Recently, the WWCA and GIPNA sent letters to the city budget director to request funding of the project. With Alderman Laurino's assistance, we're hoping to get the project back on track.

Lastly, we'll hear from 39th Ward Aldermanic candidate Chris Belz at our February 20th general meeting. The primary election is February 27th, and I hope you're planning to visit the polls. The right to vote in any election is a right that should never be taken for granted.

See you at the Winter Social!  
Liz Mills

## 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 95 years of service to the West Walker Community*

### 2006-2007 OFFICERS

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**Beth Tigie 539-9542**

*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](mailto: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 9.*



### Phase One of Light Pole Banner Sales Complete!

On a frosty January day, the West Walker Civic Association's light pole banners were installed on Pulaski Rd., Irving Park Road and Elston Ave. Congratulations to **Jackie Kazarian** for all the work she put in to sell the banners and oversee the installation. A big thank you to **Cindi Webber** for coordinating banner placement and for working with the vendor on banner production. Thanks, too, to **John Aitken** of Beat Studio for his beautiful design and production assistance. And thanks to all the businesses, individuals and block groups who purchased a banner. Thanks to all of you, we've begun our most significant neighborhood beautification project. The banners also serve as an important neighborhood identifier.

The February, March and April 2006 issues of the Wire featured the names of banner sponsors to date.

In the following column are the rest of the businesses and residents who sponsored banners in Phase One, either as individuals or in groups.

- Midwest Bank**
- Farmer's Market Garden Center**
- St Edward School**
- Peg & John Klimek**
- Frank & Pat Latsch**
- The McKee Family**
- The Tidmarsh Family**
- The Mills Family**
- The Lira Family**
- The Engel Family**
- The Schroeter Family**
- The Barry Family**
- The Mosher-True Family**
- Sue Gregoire & Jim Medd**
- Carla & Peter Foster**
- Eilyn and R. Patrick Nugent**

There are now more than 60 sponsors in all. Add your name to the list by sponsoring a banner today. See below for details.



*Jackie Kazarian and Liz Mills stand proud in front of newly installed banner at Ridgeway & Irving Park Road.*

## WEST WALKER BANNER RESERVATION FORM



Noticed the promise of spring in the banners around the neighborhood? You're in luck. There are poles still available for the next round and the time is now to place your order.

Sponsor a West Walker banner and show your support for the community. The program helps to raise awareness of our neighborhood. West Walker is a vibrant family-oriented community that has experienced much improvement in recent years and creating a strong community identity will help our area continue to improve in the coming years. The West Walker Banner Program is an important part of our community identification initiative.

The following company/individual wishes to reserve a West Walker Banner and understands that the following terms and conditions apply. Banner reservations and payments must be received by April 30, 2007.

1. The West Walker banner cost is \$350;
2. The banner will be paid for in full before reservation is considered final;
3. A small reproduction of the banner design suitable for framing and including the sponsor's name is included in the purchase price;
4. The banner will be displayed within the boundaries of West Walker on one of the following streets: Pulaski Road or Elston Avenue;
5. West Walker Civic Association cannot guarantee a specific site at which the banner will be displayed;
6. Banners will be displayed for three years. Once removed, the original banner will be available to the sponsor to own.
7. Make checks payable to West Walker Civic Association, c/o Jackie Kazarian, 4052 N. Avers, Chicago, Illinois 60618.

Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

EXACT WORDING TO APPEAR ON THE BANNER

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

PAID                      NAME                      DATE                      SIGNATURE

# West Walker Civic Association – General Meeting Minutes

## January 16, 2007

The meeting was called to order by president Liz Mills at approximately 7:35 pm.

The floor was given to Erin Lanoue from the Chicago International Charter School – Avondale, which is opening a campus at 3820 N. Spaulding in the Fall. Ms. Lanoue shared a great deal of information about CICS and charter schools in general. The Chicago International Charter Schools has 10 campuses with 6000 students. Its Bucktown school is in the top 30 in Chicago. "Victory" is the Educational Management Organization (EMO) that will run the Avondale campus. The Avondale campus will be K-4 initially. Every school campus has a Parent Teacher Organization. The CICS campuses are a school of choice: They are funded by the Chicago Public schools and are tuition-free, but they are not run by the Chicago Board of Education.

Ms. Lanoue then distributed applications and agreed to remain after the WWCA meeting to answer questions.

President Mills then conducted the meeting's business. The December General Meeting Minutes were approved. Treasurer Bob Begeske reported a general account balance of \$1,520.28 and a banner account balance of \$9,032.41

Evan Price reported that the Vision Committee's Property Inventory is still in the works and should be done soon. It was reported that 4247 Elston Property was put back up for sale by Tom Lichter after Lichter/Deva Development/WWCA could not find common ground on the Deva-proposed condominium development for that property.

Helen Lira talked about the February 24th Winter Social at Lexa's loft space on Elston.

Liz Mills reported that a request for a variance by the owner of the Marathon Gas Station has gone to the Zoning Board of Appeals. If approved, as expected,

the current building will be demolished and a new one will be built to include a sandwich outlet and mini-mart. The gas pumps will remain. There will not be a drive-thru, per WWCA and Alderman Laurino's desires.

Questions were raised regarding parking on Pulaski in front of the Walgreens. Backups occur when cars are parked on the west side of Pulaski during peak hours.

Phase I of the WW Banner project has been completed. The first 'wave' of banners have now been installed on Pulaski, Irving and Elston.

Bob Begeske reported that our CAPS Rep is looking for a location to put a police camera.

Liz mentioned that a committee is forming to address traffic issues with the Alderman.

Melanie Reschke gave a report on recent activities with the Pulaski Elston Business Association.

Under old business, Liz Mills reported that the WWCA has received the \$1,000 Marx grant. There is nothing new to report on the proposal to move the Independence branch library farther east.

A reminder was given about the Irving Park Food Pantry Valentine's brunch on February 11th. Chris Belz will speak at the February 20th WWCA meeting. The Chicago Bungalow seminar is happening at the IP Bungalow on 1/28

Marvin Weinstein announced that the Vision Committee Cultural Anchor Committee is still looking for additional volunteers. Marvin also reported that the WWCA website now has the Wire and calendar online.

State Rep. Rich Bradley reported that the 7% property tax cap should pass in the state legislature in the next ten weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 pm.



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# Office Report: 40th District

## Illinois Graduated Driver Licensing System

*New Laws You Should Know About.....*

**School Attendance** – Effective July 2007, unmarried under age 18 may have driver’s license cancelled or be refused a driver’s license or permit for failing to maintain school attendance.

**50-Hour Requirement** – Effective June 2006, teen drivers must complete 50 hours of driving during the permit stage, including 10 night hours, with a parent or adult over 21. Parents must verify requirements before driver’s license is issued.

**Cell Phone Use** – Effective July 2005, a person under 18 who holds an instruction permit or a graduated driver’s license may not use a wireless phone while driving a vehicle, except in the case of an emergency to contact a law enforcement agency, health care provider or emergency services agency.

If you are stopped by the police

- Slow down and pull over safely as soon as possible
- Stay in the driver’s seat with both hands clearly in sight on the steering wheel
- Comply with the officer’s request to see your driver’s licenses and proof of insurance
- Get out of the car only if asked to do so



For more information on the Graduate to Safety program or to obtain the 50 Hour Certificate Log or Affidavit/Consent for Minor to Drive form, please visit:

[www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) Or call

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### Irving Park Fine Arts Series Showcases Classical Guitar in February

Classical guitarist Christopher Laughlin makes his third performance appearance for the next program of Irving Park Fine Arts series' 13th season on Sunday, February 25, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. The concert will be held at the Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave.

An audience favorite, Mr. Laughlin has a wide ranging repertoire of music. He performs Spanish classics to Latin American dances, flamenco showpieces, and colorful contemporary works from all corners of the globe. The guitar virtuoso has delighted audiences across the United States and around the world.

The Irving Park Fine Arts series, under the leadership of artistic director Roger L. Bingaman has a mission aimed at providing a venue for professional musical and theatrical performances in the Irving Park neighborhood at a nominal cost to patrons. In keeping with this mission there is no set admission charge. A free will offering is taken to help defray the costs of the productions. Support from generous donors allow the series to continue. For more information on the performance, call 773-267-1667

### CAPS Update: Beat 1723

All meetings for 2007 for our beat will be at the 17th District in the community Room, 4650 N. Pulaski. They begin at 7:00 pm monthly on the 3rd Wednesday and typically last one hour.

The top 5 crimes for Beat 1723 for December 20 - January 16 were

- Domestic Simple Battery (11)
- Simple Battery (10)
- Burglary (10)
- Criminal Damage to Property (10)
- Motor Vehicle Theft (8)



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

Our CAPS facilitator, Ms. Florence Stoler has asked to be notified of any problem buildings or buildings with problem tenants. She will help you and involve any city departments necessary.

The Sergeant asked that more neighbors come to our beat meetings. We are reminded to keep all windows locked as well as closed. Our beat officers continue to ticket for parking in the alleys and for junk trucks.

Seniors are warned of thieves pretending to be with the City or the gas or electric companies to gain access to homes. Be sure to always ask to see the worker's photo ID. If you are still not sure call 311 or the utility company to find out if they are working in our area. Report any suspicious persons to 911.

Mark your calendar for the remainder of Beat 1723 meetings in 2007: Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec.19.

\*\*\*\*\*

Additional information concerning crime in the area is available at [www.chicagocrime.org](http://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.



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# Office Report: 39th Ward



Dear Neighbor,

Happy Valentine's Day! **Property tax bills** will be due soon, and I encourage all homeowners to make sure that you have applied for the exemptions to which you are entitled. To see if you are eligible for any exemptions, or if you have questions pertaining to your bill, please contact the Cook County Assessor's office at (312)443-7550.

Also, **Congressman Rahm Emanuel** is hosting a **FREE Income Tax Assistance Program** in his office, which is located at 3742 West Irving Park Road. This is a free program for families earning up to \$40,000 and individuals earning up to \$15,000 annually. Please bring all your tax documents (W-2s, 1099s, etc.), identification, and last year's tax return, if possible. They will take people first come, first served, so please try to be there early – it does fill up fast. The program will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the following dates: every Saturday in February; March 3rd, 17th, 24th and 31st; April 7th and 14th. For more information, please contact the Tax Assistance Program at (312) 409-1555.

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](mailto:ward39@cityofchicago.org).

Sincerely,  
Margaret Laurino  
Alderman, 39th Ward



## CICS – Avondale Sets Open House

The Chicago International Charter School – Avondale will host its first Open House on Thursday, February 22 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the school, located at 3820 N. Spaulding. Visitors will be able to tour the school, have questions answered by the school's management, and apply for admission. CICS, which has been chosen as part of the Chicago Public School's Renaissance 2010 program, is opening grades K-4 in the fall of 2007 at the former campus of Immaculate Heart of Mary. For more information and an application, go to [www.chicagointl.org](http://www.chicagointl.org).

## Wintertime Food, Fun & Fellowship

Irving Park Lutheran Church will host it's 8th Annual Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper and Bake Sale February 20th from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at 4057 N. Harding. The menu will consist of Swedish and regular pancakes served with lingonberries, fresh apple topping or syrup, sausages and beverages. Sweets can be purchased for an additional charge at the Bake Sale table.

The tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children twelve years and under and proceeds will benefit the Magic Mushroom children's summer Bible school program. The Magic Mushroom program is a four-week long summer program for children three years of age through grade six, and has served the Irving Park community for more than 30 years. Registration will begin at the Pancake Supper. For more information on the Pancake Supper or Magic Mushroom Program call the church office at 773-267-1667.

## Help Wanted: Safe Neighborhoods Committee

The Safe Neighborhoods Committee is looking for residents who are interested in exploring ideas to improve neighborhood safety and minimize crime. Traffic safety and eliminating gang activity are two issues currently being studied. The committee meets on an occasional basis and is responsible for maintaining a presence at CAPS meetings and reporting relevant news; tracking crime trends and statistics and communicating them through the West Walker Wire; and serving as a liaison between the police and the West Walker community. If you are interested in learning more, or would like to join the committee, contact [president-westwalker@westwalker.org](mailto:president-westwalker@westwalker.org) or **Anne Marie O'Kelley** at 509-9619.

## Retro Event to Raise Funds for St. Viator Elementary School

St. Viator Advisory School Board will be holding its 10th Annual Event—St. Viator Elementary School's Retro Dance Party & Silent Auction. The event will take place on March 10th at the St. Viator Recreation Center at 3644 N. Kedvale from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. This is an adults only event and will include complimentary hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, DJ, dancing, mini silent auctions, raffles, and much more. Dress in your favorite era and receive a free raffle ticket. Bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Irving Park Food Pantry and receive a free raffle ticket. Presale price for tickets are \$15 or \$20 at the door. Contact Kris O'Malley for tickets and further information at 773-909-0315.

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