

# WEST WALKER WIRE

OCTOBER 2007

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

## Drive With Care Campaign - Topic of October Meeting

A local campaign led by aldermen and community members is working to drastically reduce the number of car crashes on Chicago's Northwest Side.

Northwest Chicago Drive With Care, led by Ald. Tom Allen, Ald. Ariel Reboyras and Ald. Rey Colon, is urging community residents to take the Drive With Care Pledge as a way to reach its goal of curbing reckless driving.

In the area bordered by Kedzie, Austin, Fullerton and Montrose — the Drive With Care Zone — the alarming amount of crashes makes walking, bicycling and driving dangerous. Nearly 25 crashes occur daily and about one person dies every month in the Zone.



The campaign, launched by the Healthy Streets Campaign, aims to cut crash numbers by 50 percent by 2009. A key to the campaign's success is the commitment of area residents. The Drive With Care Pledge is a simple and effective way for community members to decide that they will make safe driving a priority. The pledge, which includes a "I Drive With Care" bumper sticker and key chain, addresses the four most dangerous driving behaviors — inattention, speeding, not obeying traffic signals, and not yielding to pedestrians.

Take the Drive With Care Pledge online at [www.driverspledge.com](http://www.driverspledge.com).

The Northwest Chicago Drive With Care Campaign will show you the tools and knowledge to make your streets safer and healthier at the West Walker Civic Association's meeting on October 16th at 7:30 p.m. at the Latvian Community Center, 4146 N. Elston Ave.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**October 13 • 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Household Chemical and Computer Collection Day  
*Northeastern University*  
5500 N. St. Louis

**October 16 • 7:30 p.m.**

WWCA General Meeting  
*Latvian Community Center*  
4146 N. Elston Ave.

**October 17 • 7:00 p.m.**

Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting  
*17th District Police Station,*  
*Community Room - 4650 N. Pulaski*

**October 26 • 8:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.**

St. Edward School - Halloween Fun Fair for kids  
*Buckley Hall - 4343 W. Sunnyside*

**October 28 • 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

WWCA 3rd Annual Fall Festival  
*Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym*  
*Harding & Belle Plaine*  
(See pages 3 & 5 for information)

**November 5 • 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Flu Shot Day!  
Flu shots administered free of charge  
*Alderman Laurino's 39th Ward Public Service Office, 4404 W. Lawrence Ave*

**November 20 • 7:30 p.m.**

WWCA General Meeting  
Meeting Topic: Holiday Floral Designs with Martha Maldonado from Lexa's Creative Floral Designs  
*Latvian Community Center*  
4146 N. Elston Ave.

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

## WITHIN THE WIRE...

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# Dear Neighbor:

One year ago at this time, I was writing asking your help in meeting several challenges facing West Walker. At the time, the *Wire* was without an editor or an advertising sales coordinator. Our CAPS coordinator was looking for a replacement. Gang activity was picking up on our eastern boundary. There were too few volunteers and too many tasks.

Today I'm happy to say that we've met most of those challenges. The *Wire* is fuller than ever thanks to our editor, **Beth Tigie** and ad sales team, **Laurie Gardner** and **Tara McKee**. Our two new board members, **Pam Maremont** and **Margaret McIntyre** have agreed to share CAPS reporting responsibilities. Our board and committee members are working hard and remain committed to our mission. New folks continue to offer their time and talents.

In addition, we're working closely with other civic groups like the Old Irving Park Association and the Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association to share information and resources. The Independence Park Bungalow renovation project, for instance, is a joint effort of the WWCA, GIPNA and the park's advisory council. We've also established an excellent working relationship with our 39th Ward Alderman, **Margaret Laurino** and her staff.

Through the hard work of the Zoning and Vision committees, we're seeing interest in Elston Avenue from developers. Most importantly, in recent months developers have come to us having already read our Vision, and before drawing up architectural plans. Being able to discuss their ideas before plans are put on paper saves both them and our zoning committee time and energy.

How often does it happen that the thing you wish for just falls into your lap? That's how I feel about the opening of the **LaCosta Theatre** at 3931 N. Elston. Run by a group of remarkably young and talented performers, this established theatre company is opening its first production this month in the 125+ seat theatre and gallery space they built out themselves. (See page 5 for details.) LaCosta's artistic directors will stop by our October meeting to meet us and talk about their company.

For all of these reasons, I'm feeling a lot of positive energy flowing at meetings and events. Excitement is building as more and more people begin to see how much has been accomplished and how close we are to seeing our Vision start to unfold. (With a new theatre in the neighborhood, could more restaurants be far behind?) But there's still a lot to be done. Contact me if you'd like to get involved. We'd love to have you!

Sincerely,

Liz Mills

P.S. Hope to see you and your pie at the Fall Festival on October 28th!

## 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*

### 2007-2008 OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	<b>Liz Mills</b> 267-9298
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Evan Price</b> 267-1740
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mike Webber</b> 539-8346
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bob Begeske</b> 267-5942

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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Editor  
**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 10.*

# WWCA 3rd Annual Fall Festival

***Sunday, October 28, 1-3PM***

**Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym**

(corner of Harding & Belle Plaine)

Enter your  
favorite pie  
in the

**PIE BAKING  
CONTEST!**

Winner will receive  
a gift certificate to  
Smoque!

*Homemade crusts and fillings  
only please.*

Enjoy a tasty treat or take a  
chance on a raffle.

*Raffle prizes donated by  
Dorie Westmeyer Realtor, Charles Rutenberg Realty,  
and NBC5*

Relax and enjoy the music  
by Annalee Koehn and  
Danny Miller.

Bring the kids  
to decorate a  
pumpkin or  
make a craft.



**Admission is Free!**

*But a donation of a canned food  
for the Irving Park Food Pantry would be appreciated.*

## WWCA – General Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2007 – 30 present

WWCA Vice-President Evan Price opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

The June General Meeting Minutes were approved, as modified.

Treasurer Bob Begeske reported a general account balance of \$1,385.40. Fall is the time for all members to renew their memberships. New members are encouraged to join anytime.

Evan Price reported that the Artistic Series, a varied series of artistic events, is being planned to start this fall. These events will take place as the search for a West Walker Cultural Anchor continues. Look for more announcements soon.

The cultural evolution continues with the location of the established LaCosta Theatre Company to 3931 North Elston. Plays should commence this fall. Go to [www.lacostatheatre.com](http://www.lacostatheatre.com) for more information.

Dorie Westmeyer reported on the success of the 4th of July Parade and celebration, which was well attended on a beautiful day. In upcoming events, the West Walker Fall Festival will be held October 28 at the Lutheran Church. Games, raffle items and a pie baking contest are planned.

Mike Webber reported that the Chicago Committee on Zoning approved the variance on the 4154 N. Elston property, purchase on the property has been completed and the Zoning Committee is evaluating final plans for the buildings. Also, West Walker is investigating strategies to prevent Pulaski, which has no zoning restrictions on Condos, from becoming a teardown alley.

The owner of The Strip Joynt, located at 4170 North Elston, appeared before the City of Chicago Department of the Environment on September 17 and agreed to hire a city-approved environmental engineering consultant as a result of complaints of noxious odors from neighbors. His operations are contingent on further approval. Further hearing before the Department of the Environment is scheduled for October 9.

Michelle Kaicener has volunteered to head an environmental committee to give help and advice on Green issues like recycling, going green in your home and conservation. Michelle already has solar hot water in her home.

The meeting concluded with a very well received presentation by Tom LaPorte of the City of Chicago Department of Water Management and a team of presenters with the Department of Streets and Sanitation. They explained efforts the City has taken over the years to prevent basement flooding, and why the storms of August 2007 simply overwhelmed the system. Upcoming projects include storm sewer improvements on Avers between Berteau and Montrose. Many services and products, including downspout evaluation, the Private Drain Program and discounted rain barrels are available through the City. Tom is available to coordinate services on a block-by-block basis.

The meeting was adjourned by President Liz Mills at 8:45 p.m.

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### Fall Fest is Here!

Mark your calendars and save the date for the West Walker Civic Association's Third Annual Fall Festival. The free event will take place Sunday, October 28th from 1-3 p.m. at the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym on the corner of Harding & Belle Plaine.

Once again, West Walker's bakers will have a chance to showcase their culinary talent in the pie baking contest – back by popular demand! The winner will receive a gift certificate donated by Smoque, the neighborhood's popular barbecue restaurant. The contest rules are:

1. Pie crusts and fillings must be homemade. No pudding, custard or ice cream fillings.
2. Entrant's name should be marked on the bottom of the pie pan and should be dropped off no later than 1:30 p.m.
3. Pies will be judged on presentation and taste.
4. The decision of the judges is final.

Bring the kids. Sip some cider. Decorate a pumpkin. Enjoy the musical stylings of Annalee Koehn and Danny Miller. And take a chance on a get-away for four to Grand Bear Falls Indoor Water Park at Grand Bear Lodge, Starved Rock, provided by NBC5, or a wonderful Fall gift basket donated by Dorie Westmeyer, Realtor, with Charles Rutenberg Realty. A donation of a canned food for the Irving Park Food Pantry would be appreciated. Questions or want to help out? Call Liz Mills at 267-9298. Hope to see you there!

### Save the Date for Second Annual Fine Wine and Cheese Event

It's partying with a purpose! Join your friends and neighbors at the Bungalow in Independence Park on November 10th from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. for a night of fun to benefit the Bungalow Renovation Project. The evening will feature fine wine and cheeses, entertainment, a silent auction and raffle. Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased by calling Liz Mills at 267-9298.



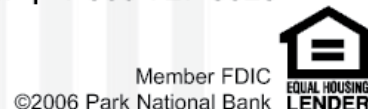
Not only did last year's attendees enjoy a wonderful evening with friends, but they also had an opportunity to view plans to renovate this historic building for the benefit of the whole community. Better make your reservation for this fun event early as it will sell out!

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Alderman  
39th Ward

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# CAPS Report - Beat 1723

Burglary is the most prevalent crime in the West Walker neighborhood. Beat officers on the afternoon shift said there has been a drastic increase of burglaries in the last few months, particularly while residents are at work. The offenders use something like a ladder, nearby door jamb or anything laying around the yard to stand on in order to reach the window and they are in with out much effort. Officers stressed the importance of locking your windows when you are not at home.



There were several complaints about police response time on 911 calls. As a result there will be a representative at the next meeting explaining the process of handling emergency calls and how they are prioritized, which is a major factor in response time. In addition, officers explained how important it is to be as descriptive and accurate as possible when placing a call to 911.

Arrests were up to 84 from 62 over the last month in beat 1723. Also, at the August CAPS meeting residents complained of excessive parking in the alleys and subsequently more tickets were issued last month.

CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meetings for 2007 for our beat are held at the 17th District in the community Room, 4650 N. Pulaski. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. monthly on the 3rd Wednesday and typically last one hour. The next meeting is October 17th.

Even though summer is over and the ice cream man will park the truck for the season there was a report about a green ice cream truck serving more then cold treats. Apparently the driver has been offering marijuana for sale while cruising the neighborhood, including offering it to kids. The beat officers have been notified and they are aware of the situation.

Statistics by type of crime in the West Walker neighborhood:

(August 15 – September 18, 2007)

Criminal Damage to property or vehicle .....	8
Theft \$300 and under .....	7
Automobile Theft .....	5
Drug Possession .....	5
Assault (simple) .....	4
Domestic Battery .....	4
Burglary (unlawful entry).....	2
Theft over \$300 .....	2
Aggravated Battery with a Dangerous Weapon ..	1
Criminal Sexual Assault.....	1
Armed Robbery with a Handgun .....	1
Public Peace Violation.....	1
Telephone Threat.....	1

## St. Edward School and Parish News

Students participated in the annual Chalk Walk school walk-a-thon on October 5th. Students enjoyed a pleasant walk throughout the Mayfair and Old Irving Park neighborhoods on a beautiful fall day in Chicago. With this fundraiser, students raised money for the school through pledges for varying distances that they walked. Samland (4320 W. Montrose) generously provided snacks for the students as they completed their walk.

Homecoming at St. Edward will be celebrated with a Parade starting at the School and finishing at Gompers Park on October 13. The Homecoming game features St. Edward JV and Varsity football teams against St. Francis Borgia.

St. Edward School will host its popular Halloween Fun Fair for local kids on Friday, October 26. Area children can play carnival games (everyone will win) for a wide variety of prizes. The event will be held in the school gym (Buckley Hall). For more information on, call the school at 773/736-9133.

The next school board meeting will be held Monday, October 29 in the lower church at 7:00 p.m.



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## LaCosta Theatre Opens on Elston!

The West Walker Civic Association would like to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to the The LaCosta Theatre Company which will open its first production at their new home on Elston Avenue on October 5th. The play, "On Stars Not Falling" by Scott Shallenbarger, runs through October 28th with performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. The theatre is located at 3931 N. Elston.



LaCosta is offering \$5 off ticket prices to neighborhood patrons with proof of residence shown on a driver's license or bill. Tickets can be purchased online at Ticketweb.com or by calling the theatre at 866-0200 and paying by credit card. Tickets can also be purchased at the box office by cash, check or credit card. Visa, Master Card and Discover are accepted. For more information, visit [www.lacostatheatre.com](http://www.lacostatheatre.com).

During the Vision planning process, many West Walker residents spoke about their desire to have an arts organization located in the neighborhood. We hope that the young and energetic performers at LaCosta will be the first of many cultural organizations to call our community home.

## How You Can Help Manage Stormwater

### Tips from the Department of Water Management

The first step to managing stormwater at home is disconnecting your downspout from the sewer system, if conditions are right. The goal is to reduce the amount and speed of stormwater leaving your property.



Some of Chicago's Green Bungalows utilize rain barrels in yard and garden areas.

You can simply direct the downspout water with a splashblock or extension to an existing area in your yard that needs water.

Once you've disconnected the downspout, you can put the stormwater that comes from the downspout to work in your yard:

- Install a rain barrel
- Grow a rain garden
- Install permeable paving

For more information or to request a rain barrel, contact (312) 743-9283 or [rainbarrel@cityofchicago.org](mailto:rainbarrel@cityofchicago.org).

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# Office Report: 40th District

The consumer friendly Electric Rate Freeze in place for 10 years expired January 1st. I supported the freeze 10 years ago during my first term in Springfield. Recently, a reverse auction method was used to set new prices for consumers. Unfortunately, without a truly competitive market in place, the utility companies ended all electric discounts, and hit small business, senior citizens, and young families with outrageous rates.



On July 26th the House and Senate each passed Senate Bill 1952. This was a negotiated package, supported by independent consumer advocacy groups like the Citizens' Utility Board and senior advocates like AARP. I voted in support of this legislation because I strongly believe that this settlement provides real benefits for customers – \$1 billion in relief – and makes great strides in stabilizing the electricity market for the future. With this agreement, the reverse auction that caused the huge rate hikes will not happen again. If I can be of assistance to your family, please contact me at my service office.

## RATE RELIEF & REFORM PACKAGE

- ComEd customers will receive discount on 2007 bills approximately 45% off the increase from 2006.
- Customers will receive a lump-sum amount, credited on future bills, to reflect discounts going back to January 2007 and will continue to receive credits going forward until 2009.
- Discounts are based on usage so they are proportional, the more you use, the more you save.
- Creation of targeted rate relief programs for summer cooling assistance, seniors, LIHEAP, and small businesses.
- Creation of Illinois Power Agency (IPA)
- IPA replaces the reverse auction to put an independent agency, not utilities, in control of electricity purchase on behalf of customers.

Richard Bradley, State Representative 40th District 3520 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago IL 60641 (773) 794-9444

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# Office Report: 39th Ward



Fall is finally here, and **Halloween** is just around the corner. Everyone wants to have a safe and happy Halloween for themselves, their guests and their children. Halloween should be a fun-filled holiday, and following these **common sense practices can keep events safer and more fun:**

- Never let your child go trick-or-treating alone. All young children should be supervised by an adult.
- Dress your child in a bright costume. Add reflective tape on their costumes or bags, and have them carry a flashlight.
- If your child wears a mask, make sure his/her sight is not obstructed or hindered.
- Stick to well-known and well-lit neighborhoods. Only approach houses that have the porch light on.
- Stay on sidewalks - never take shortcuts through yards. When crossing the street, follow traffic signals and look both ways before crossing.
- Carefully inspect candy before your child eats it. Throw out any candy that is not individually and commercially wrapped.

**Upcoming events...** This year the *Mayfair Remembrance Day: A Salute to American Heroes* event will take place on **Sunday, November 4th, at 1:30 p.m.** by the Mayfair Veterans Memorial (southwest corner of Lawrence and Keeler). We would love for you to come and help us honor fire fighters, police officers, and veterans from the community for their many sacrifices and dedication to preserving our safety and freedom. Mark your calendars for **Flu Shot Day!** On **Monday, November 5th**, flu shots will be administered at my public service office. The shots will available from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., and they are free of charge.

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



## How to Meet the Homeless On *Your* Street

by The Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer, Rector St. John's Episcopal Church

Part of living in the city means that we encounter all kinds of people everyday. Unfortunately this often means encountering people who are in crisis. Many of us who lose a job, live without health insurance, abuse drugs or alcohol, or have a mental illness have a safety net; we have a family, a home, and some financial means to deal with their problems. But for those without a safety net, whose family, community, and government have failed them, home is the street and survival is the only goal. We can feel grateful or guilty, but what can we do?

**Say hello.** Acknowledge that the person you encounter is a person. If you greet people pushing baby strollers or walking dogs then say hello to the person pushing a shopping cart filled with cans or shaking a coffee cup as you walk by. This will help alleviate your fear of the stranger and, if you really want to help, will be a first step. The person is not likely dangerous (most people are harmed by people they know) and they are in your neighborhood for the same reason you are – because it is safe. A person who lives on the street knows the streets, and like any neighbor, can alert you to what is going on.

**Give – but not money.** It may ease your conscience to throw some change in a person's cup but it is not likely to be helpful to them. If the person has an addiction they are likely to return to the same spot, day after day, or even seek you out for another handout. I ask people what they are looking for and have given out directions, water, food, or a bus card. Sometimes the only thing I have to give is a smile. If you live in the Portage Park/ Irving Park Neighborhoods we have a new resource – a business card with the number of Hands to Help Ministries where a person can reach a social worker to help them.

**Tell the truth.** Seeing people in crisis is very uncomfortable. Find out more about the problems that people live with. Talk about it. Be straight with your kids. "That woman talking to herself has a mental illness; she may see and hear things we can't." "There are programs to help people that have lost legs; unfortunately that man is making more money begging. That's why we don't give away cash." "That person is drunk, they need to stop drinking. Remember your Aunt Lucy? She had that problem but now she goes to AA meetings." "That person fought for our county, he shouldn't be alone."

**Set limits.** Being kind doesn't mean being taken advantage of, or letting someone get away with anything. Real relationships have boundaries. "I'm glad you enjoyed the coffee I gave you; please don't leave the cup on this bench." "I don't mind you looking through the trash cans in the alley, but if you sleep here I'll call the police." "Sorry, I don't give cash." "I had a gift card for you last week, but I can't do that every week. What is your plan for buying food?"

**Advocate.** How you vote and what you tell your elected officials, beginning with your alderman, does count. Let people know you want things to change! Give to charities you know make a difference. To help out locally consider giving your time or money to:

### Irving Park Community Food Pantry:

Contact Kathy Howe or Barb Cohn  
3801 N. Keeler, 60641  
773.283.6296  
www.irvingparkfoodpantry.com

### Hands to Help Ministries:

Contact Laura Singer or Libby Louer, Social Worker  
3857 N. Kostner, 60641  
773.729.6588  
lts72@aol.com

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# WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



*Yearly Membership Dues:  
Effective September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2008*

Check One:    FAMILY \$10                          BUSINESS \$15                          SENIOR \$5   

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Mail or drop off your application and dues to: Bob Begeske; 4251 N. Avers Ave.; Chicago, IL 60618

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Emergency:**                      911

**Non-Emergency:**              311 (Always request a tracking number)

**17th Police District:**        312.744.8346

Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting: 3rd Wednesdays of the Month  
- 7:00 p.m. at 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski Road

**39th Ward:**                      Alderman Margaret Laurino  
773.736.5594                      4404 W. Lawrence Ave.

Email:                              ward39@cityofchicago.org

Web:                                 www.aldermanlaurino.com

Constituent Night:              Mondays, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

*(Call ahead. Meet Alderman Laurino to discuss Ward concerns.)*

**39th Ward Streets and Sanitation:**        312.744.8163

**33rd Ward:**                      Alderman Richard Mell  
773.478.8040                      3649 N. Kedzie Ave.

Email:                              rmell@cityofchicago.org

Web:                                 www.33rdward.org

33rd Ward Advisory Council: Third Thursday each month at  
Horner Park Fieldhouse, 2741 W. Montrose Ave.; 7:00 p.m.

*(Discuss your issues with the advisory council)*

**33rd Ward Streets and Sanitation:**        312.744.1451

**40th District State Representative:**        Richard Bradley  
773.794.9444

**20th District State Senator:**                Iris Y. Martinez  
773.283.7000

**5th Congressional District:**                Rahm Emmanuel  
773.267.5926

**Independence Branch, Chicago Public Library:**  
3548 W. Irving Park Road                      312.744.0900

**Independence Park, Chicago Park District:**  
3945 N Springfield Avenue                      773.478.3538

**Graffiti Removal Hotline:**                312.744.1234  
*(Always request a tracking number)*

**Neighborhood Relations:**                312.744.3774

**Poison Control Center:**                      800.942-5969

**Illegal Businesses, City Department of Revenue:**  
312.747.5317

**www.cityofchicago.org:**                      All city departments

**www.cookcountyassessor.org:**              Property assessments

**www.cookcountytreasurer.org:**              Property taxes

**www.legis.state.il.us:**                      Check pending state legislation

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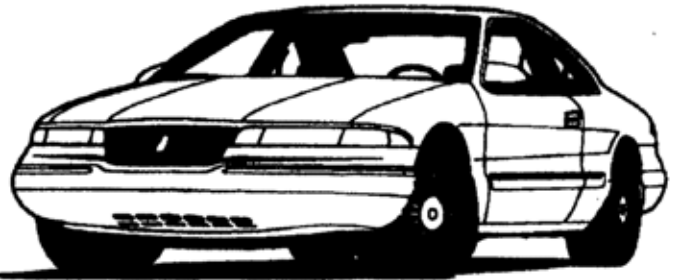
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