

# WEST WALKER WIRE

MARCH 2008

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

## Tips to Get Your Garden and Yourself Into Shape at March Meeting

Our March 18th general meeting will feature two speakers. Jack Prikos of the Farmer's Market Garden Center will help you get your garden into shape this spring with garden tips. Whether you're an experienced gardener or a novice, Jack will have great ideas about what to plant and where. Bring your questions and garden challenges!

And - Get Ready to Play! YMCA Free Family Fun for West Walker and GIPNA groups will be on Sunday 3/30 from 2-4 at the Irving Park YMCA. Featured events include: ADULTS: Spin class, Zumba dance exercise class, Basketball; KIDS: Instructional Basketball, Martial Arts Demo, LITTLE KIDS: "Mazing Kids indoor playground area. YMCA representatives Lara Pancelt and Susan Salinas will be presenting more information on this great opportunity.

Join us at 7:30 p.m. at the Latvian Community Center at 4146 N. Elston Ave.



Get ready  
to spread your  
wings!

Spring is almost  
here!

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### March 18 • 7:30 p.m.

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

### March 19 • 7:00 p.m.

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

### March 14 - April 6

#### Gallery Opening - Featuring Quilts by Local Artist

The Tapestry Center  
3824 W. Irving Park Road  
(see page 7 for Information)

### March 21 & 22 • 8:00 p.m.

Performances of "The Vagina  
Monologues" and "Holding Court"  
LaCosta Theater - 3931 N. Elston Ave.  
(more on page 7)

### March 30 • 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

YMCA Free Family Fun  
Irving Park YMCA

### April 3 • 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Magic After-School Place Open House  
Irving Park Lutheran Church gym  
4057 N. Harding Ave. (see page 8)

### April 12 • 2:30 p.m.

Movie - "Ratatouille"  
Independence Park Field House  
Irving Park & Springfield (see page 8)

### April 12 • 6:00 p.m. to Midnight

St. Edward's Big Red Auction  
Buckley Hall, 4343 W. Sunnyside  
(more on page 6)

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

# Dear Neighbor:

According to a West Walker legend, if **Jack Prikos** of the Farmer's Market Garden Center sees his shadow at his annual garden talk, spring can't be far behind. To find out whether we're in for additional punishment or more agreeable weather, be sure to come to the WWCA meeting on Tuesday, March 18th at 7:30 p.m. at the Latvian Community Center, 4146 N. Elston Ave. We'll also hear from the Irving Park YMCA about a special West Walker day planned for Sunday, March 30th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. It's free, and you can bring your kids! For more details, see page 1.

At the March meeting we'll also get an update on what's been happening with the Disney II magnet school proposed for the Irving Park Middle School at Kedvale and Grace. **Laura Ell** and **Pam Maremont** have been working hard to keep the West Walker community informed about this important development and we're grateful to them. As more details about the application process become available, we'll post them on our web site at [www.westwalker.org](http://www.westwalker.org).

Looking ahead to April, local historian and Glessner House executive director **Bill Tyre** will present his history of Old Irving Park and West Walker. Some of you will remember Bill from the West Walker 90th anniversary celebration. Bill has collected many historic photos and much information about the area which he presents in an entertaining slide show. Mark your calendar for April 15th. It will be a great meeting.

I'm very grateful to **Cindi Webber** for graciously agreeing to take on the planning of the Winter Social. Cindi did a wonderful job with the event, which was enjoyed by all who attended. For photos and more info, see page 4.

The February primary election certainly held many surprises. Voter turnout in our area was even higher than usual, which is an indicator that people are ready for change at the national level. Closer to home, congratulations to **Deb Mell** for winning the democratic spot in the 40th district State Representative contest. We are grateful to outgoing State Rep. **Rich Bradley** for his many years of service to our community.

Thanks to the commitment of **Bob Crowley** and **Melanie Reschke**, the WWCA is sponsoring its 23rd annual garage sale. The sale is the ultimate green way to de-clutter! Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 17th, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. You'll find the permit application on page 5.

Lastly, I wanted to acknowledge two new *Wire* carriers, **Patti Freko** and **Mary Rizzo**. Thanks, ladies, for helping us stay connected through our newsletter. And a huge thanks to **Maria Menard** and **Debbie Koller** for delivering the *Wire* for the past several years.

Welcome Spring!

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 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
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**Beth Tighe**

*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 7.*



# WWCA – General Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2008

WWCA President Liz Mills opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The January General Meeting Minutes were approved.

Bob Begeske reported that the Association had closed an old passbook savings account and transferred those funds into the general account. The WWCA general account reported a balance of \$1,148.80.

Our guest speakers were with Normandy Builders. Dan Schoendorff, Director of Sales and Marketing, and Chris Ebert, Designer, were both on hand to talk about the latest trends in remodeling and build-outs. Normandy originated the Design-Build concept in Chicago in 1979 and has continued to serve the Chicago community since. Dan and Chris walked us through a typical process, from the initial walk through to design and construction phases. Normandy builds year ‘round and completed 210 projects in 2007. They also provide post-construction support, including free service on their projects. Dan and Chris were very popular, and answered many questions about a wide array of subjects, from the latest in bathroom accessories (steam showers) to the cost-effectiveness of popular upgrades.

Liz Mills reported that the Art in My Backyard juried art exhibit has received very positive response, with over 20 local artists volunteering submissions. Look for information about the exhibit, to be held in May or June, soon.

LaCosta Theatre, located at 3931 N Elston, will have a special performance with discounted tickets available to West Walker residents on March 9 at 4:00 p.m. The current musical is “Stuck” which tells the story of six people stranded below ground on a CTA train. Tickets are \$12 each on West Walker day, discounted from \$20.

Michelle Kaicener is heading up the WWCA Environment Committee and writes a frequent column in The Wire.

The Nominating Committee for the 2008-09 WWCA Board of Directors is being formed. Anyone interesting in participating on the board or committees should contact any board member.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual WWCA Garage Sale will take place on Saturday, May 17, 2008.

Pat Clark of GIPNA reported that the Farmer’s Market in Independence Park is growing every year thanks to neighborhood support. They will commence June 1, 2008 and take place every first and third Sunday of the month through Fall.

There were no updated reports for PEBA or CAPS. Information was provided in The Wire.

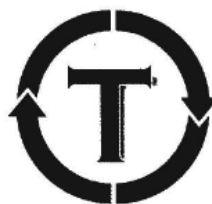
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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## West Walker Friends Warm Up at Winter Social

Forty West Walker residents and friends shared a festive evening at Lexa's Gallery M in February. An avalanche of thanks go to **Cindi Webber** and special events committee members **Helen Lira, Laurie Gardner, Carol Barry, and Tara McKee** for putting the evening together. Thanks to the **Fish Guy** and West Walker chef **Ed Gardner** for donating delicious hors d'oeuvres and to the staff of **Lexa's** for their hospitality.

Congratulations to **Patrick McKee**, winner of the \$25 **Smoque** gift certificate, and to **Amanda Haymon** and **Josh Jones**, winners of the **LaCosta Theatre** passports, valued at \$120.

Most of all, thanks to everyone who came to our winter ice breaker!



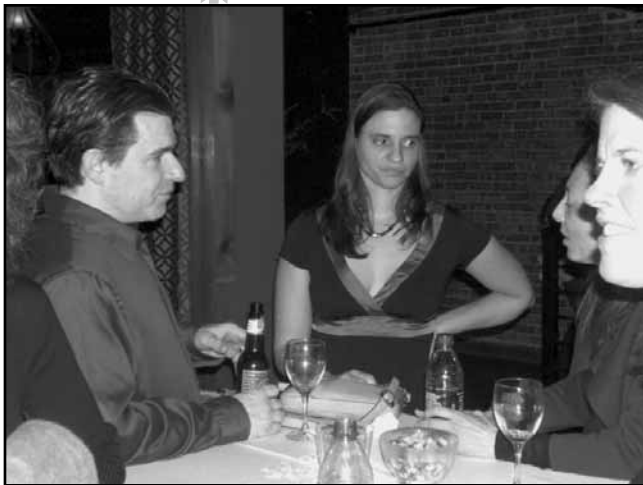
ABOVE: Even friends from other neighborhoods enjoyed the Social -- Susan Ford, Dorene Jordan and Ellen Ryan enjoy a glass of wine.



ABOVE: WWCA Web Master Marvin Weinstein and wife Faye chill out at the Winter Social.

BELOW: New to West Walker, Josh Jones and Amanda Haymon took advantage of the Social to meet their neighbor, Jane Nagle (in profile).

BELOW: Mike Webber and Patrick Nugent



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Alderman  
39th Ward

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4404 West Lawrence Avenue  
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Ward Office: (773) 736-5594  
Ward39@cityofchicago.org

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



# West Walker Civic Association

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Neighborhood Garage and Yard Sale

### Saturday May 17, 2008, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Rain or Shine

All West Walker residents are invited to participate in our 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Garage and Yard Sale.

The sale will be advertised in the Chicago Tribune and neighborhood newspapers. Signs will be posted on the main perimeter streets. **3,000 MAPS INDICATING THE LOCATION OF EACH REGISTERED ADDRESS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THE WEEK OF THE SALE.**

Under current city ordinance, every home having a garage sale ***MUST DISPLAY*** a Garage Sale Permit, which must be acquired from the Alderman's office. The Garage and Yard Sale Committee will file the applications for permits and obtain the permits for all paid participants. To accomplish this, we must have your paid application to participate by ***May 10, 2008.***

Return the form below to have your address listed as a participant in the sale, along with your application fee. Remember, your fee covers purchasing ads in newspapers, as well as the distribution of maps throughout the area. For further information call Bob Crowley at (773) 267-1921.

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WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION GARAGE AND YARD SALE  
Saturday, May 17, 2008

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

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- I am a current member of the West Walker Civic Association. Enclosed is my **\$5.00** participation fee.
- I am **not now** a member of the West Walker Civic Association. Enclosed is my **\$15.00** participation fee. Please credit \$10.00 towards my West Walker Civic Association 2007-2008 dues.

Please make your check payable to: WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
Mail or drop off your form and payment to: Bob Crowley, 4125 N. Harding Ave, Chicago, IL 60618

## The Bees and the Butterflies

I'm sure everyone has heard about the disappearance of millions of honeybees, both in the US and in other countries. The syndrome has been called "Colony Collapse Disorder," where bees leave the hive and never return.

The cause has not yet been positively identified, although experts think it may be due to a combination of factors, resulting in lowered resistance - environmental pressures, pesticides, habitat loss, monocultural agriculture - thereby allowing them to be unusually sensitive to various diseases, bacteria, fungi and viruses.

What does this mean for us? A great many agricultural crops, oil seeds, fruits, nuts, spices and herbs, including apples, citrus, broccoli, carrots, lima beans, cucumbers, melons, almonds, sunflowers, soybeans, are pollinated by bees. Without pollinators, we would lose all those crops. Grains e.g. corn, grasses and conifers are wind pollinated.

What can we do to help encourage insect pollinators? Firstly, we should avoid using herbicides and pesticides. Secondly, we should plant flowers that attract pollinators. Thirdly, we can make homes for bees in our gardens.

There are many kinds of bees that visit urban gardens - Honeybees, Bumblebees, Carpenter bees, Ground bees, Mason bees, to name just a few. Don't confuse bees and wasps - wasps are sometimes more aggressive, and sometimes hunt bees. Bees are gentle foragers, and are just looking for pollen and nectar, not looking for you !!

**Build a Bee Habitat in Your Garden:** With drill bits of various sizes (5/16th of an inch works best for Mason bees) simply take some scrap lumber and drill holes 3 to 5 inches deep but not all the way through a wood block. For example, get a 4 inch by 4 inch piece of wood and drill holes that are 3 and 1/2 inches deep. Place in various locations in the garden.

**Herbs for Attracting Bees & Butterflies:** Basil, Borage, Catnip, Cornflower, Dill, Echinacea, Evening Primrose, Fennel, Goldenrod, Horehound, Hyssop, Lavender, Parsley, Poppy, Thyme, Sage.

**Ornamentals & Flowers for Attracting Bees & Butterflies:** Bachelor's Button, Black-Eyed Susan, Butterfly Bush, Clematis, Coreopsis, Dame's Rocket, Foxglove, Goldenrod, Heliotrope, Hydrangea, Lantana, Larkspur, Mexican Hat, Plumbago, Rose of Sharon, Salvia, Sweet William, Zinnia.

Don't forget to buy local, organic honey !!

Website of the Month:  
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/bees/>

Follow the link to the podcast:  
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/podcasts.html>

*Michelle Kaicener*  
[mkaicener@earthlink.net](mailto:mkaicener@earthlink.net)

## St. Ed's Big Red Auction Set for April 12th

Many exciting prizes will be on the live and silent auction block at St. Edward's annual "Big Red Auction." Each year proceeds from the auction will help St. Edward School continue its commitment to providing a quality Catholic education to area children.

The gala will be held on Saturday, April 12th from 6:00 p.m. until Midnight in Buckley Hall - the school gym - at 4343 W. Sunnyside Avenue (one block north of Montrose at the corner of Lowell).

Closing times on bids will be staggered during the evening. A cash bar and complimentary heavy hors'doeuvres will be available. Dancing and a DJ begin at 8:30 p.m. and the dress is casual.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Partygoers must be 21 to attend.

For more information, call the school at (773) 736-9133.

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### Tapestry Center Features WW Resident's Quilted Works of Art

The Tapestry Center will hold an exhibit of the art of quilter and West Walker resident, Frances Wedgewood. Her works will be on display through April 6th. The Tapestry Center is located at 3824 W. Irving Park Road. For more information call 773.931.8900.

### Join LaCosta Theater for V-Day

LaCosta Theater will be one of many theaters around the country participating in V-Day 2008. V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues" to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities.

Join LaCosta Theater on March 21 and 22 at 8:00 p.m. for a performance of "The Vagina Monologues," followed by a performance of the theater's own production, "Holding Court."

For more information on V-day go to [www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org), and for performance and ticket information visit [www.lacostatheater.com](http://www.lacostatheater.com).

### Feinstein Offers Another \$1 Million Giveaway To Fight Hunger

For the tenth straight year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1 million among hunger fighting agencies nationwide using it to help raise funds during March and April, 2008. Whatever money is donated during these two months will be matched proportionately by the Feinstein Foundation.

**Whatever you donated to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, the Feinstein Foundation will add money to it. The more you give, the more of the \$1 million we will get - Thanks to you!**

This has become the greatest grassroots campaign ever to fight hunger in our country. Your donation makes you a partner. You will help decide how many needy people in this city will be fed this year. **Please give whatever you can and some of the Feinstein money will be added to it.**

Mr. Feinstein says, "Thank you for sharing my heart, and the hope that - someday - no one will ever go hungry." We add our thanks and hope to his.

For more information, contact the Pantry at (773) 283-6296 or [irvpkfoodpantry@aol.com](mailto:irvpkfoodpantry@aol.com)

*- Board of Directors  
Irving Park Community Food Pantry*

### West Walker Wire Advertising Rates

Business Card - \$15/month \_\_\_\_\_ #/months Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must purchase a 3-month minimum)

1/4 Page - \$25/month \_\_\_\_\_ #/months Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(3.5" wide x 4.5" high)

1/2 Page - \$50/month \_\_\_\_\_ #/months Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Full Page - \$100/month \_\_\_\_\_ #/months Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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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](mailto: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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[ferrislaura@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ferrislaura@sbcglobal.net) 773-866-0665



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## MAP to hold Open House April 3

The Magic After-School Place (MAP) will hold its first open house on Thursday, April 3 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Irving Park Lutheran Church gym, 4057 N. Harding Ave. MAP is a program sponsored by the Irving Park Carlson Ministries serving school-age children in the Irving Park community.

The open house will feature a fencing demonstration, exhibit of art work and a choral performance. Staff and volunteers will be on hand to talk about the program and meet parents and neighbors. Refreshments will be served.

MAP offers healthy snacks, a nurturing environment, homework help and tutoring. The program meets Monday through Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuition is very reasonable and scholarships are available. High school students seeking community service hours are encouraged to check out the program. Adult volunteers are always welcome.

For more information, contact Mary Perillo at (773) 934-2845.



ABOVE: Children enjoy activities at the MAP



## Showing of "Ratatouille" at Independence Park

Bring the kids and enjoy the animated hit, "Ratatouille" at the Independence Park Field House on Saturday, April 12, at 2:30 p.m. This is a free showing and you can bring your own snacks and drinks. *Please Note:* Children must be accompanied by an adult, there can be no drop-offs.

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#### WEST:

1406 Butterfield Rd.  
Butterfield Plaza, Downers Grove, IL





## News from St. Viator's

### **Fourth and Sixth Grade Students Participate in The G.R.E.A.T. Program**

The G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education And Training) Program is sponsored by the Chicago Police Department. This program provides students with information to help them make positive choices when faced with difficult situations, such as bullying. Officer Byerly visited our 4th graders once a week for 7 weeks. Each lesson consisted of a vocabulary activity, role playing situations, and lively discussions. Students were encouraged to think of possible solutions when faced with situations, discuss them, choose the best one, and write about it in the G.R.E.A.T. booklet. Each week, parents received a letter describing the lesson. At the end of the program, students received a special certificate of completion.

### **St. Viator Art Show and Curriculum Fair, May 4th**

On Sunday, May 4, 2008, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. the students of St. Viator Elementary School invite you to view their exceptional work. Art Zone, St. Viator's fine arts program, will feature the student's interpretation of

Van Gogh, Georgia O'Keefe and other artists they have studied over the year. You will also have the opportunity to view a sampling of the curriculum at St. Viator. We hope you can visit your neighborhood school! (St. Viator Elementary School, 4140 West Addison Street, www.stviatorchicago.org)

### **Recycling in Your Neighborhood**

Paper recycling available at St. Viator 24/7 !! The Student Council at St. Viator is participating in a paper recycling program. You can drop off your newspapers, magazines, shopping catalogs, office paper and mail in the bins located behind the school in the parking lot (enter parking lot off of Kedvale). Please add recycling to your errand route and bring your paper by once a week. Not only are you helping the Student Council program at St. Viator you are also helping the environment.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please make your check payable to: WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

# CAPS Report

by Margaret McIntyre

Updates were given on issues brought up at the last month's CAPS meeting.

- Regarding the shooting/homicide that occurred on January 12, the officers reported that the case was still open and there were no new leads. A citizen in the meeting mentioned that they heard a report of someone seeing a male with a red hoodie matching the description by the prior witness and they had a partial license plate number. Officers stated they would follow-up.
- The other old topic discussed was the "dog napping" reports. In the last two meetings, there were reports by residents of a maroon van looking for women walking their dogs. The van stops, knocks down the woman and steals her dog. When the police looked into the reports, they found no record of complaints filed. A victims' rights group also stated they looked into the situation and could not find any victims. It is believed by the police and the victims' rights group that these "dog napping" reports are really an urban myth and are false.

Under new issues discussed:

- At an establishment on the north side of Montrose between Springfield and Harding, over the last couple of months, there have been several noise complaints at closing time, around 2-3 a.m. The officers stated they did talk to the owner and he was very cooperative. The police also stated they have been ticketing anyone parked illegally in the area. They will continue to have a car sitting outside the establishment during closing time as a deterrent.
- Police reported on a several incidents of telephone scams. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE POLICE AND AT&T. DON'T EVER DIAL AREA CODE "809".** This scam is being done all over the U.S. This is pretty scary, especially given the way they try to get you to call. Be sure you read this and pass it on. They get you to call by telling you that it is information about a family member who has been ill or to tell you someone has-been arrested, died, or to let you know you have won a wonderful prize, etc. In each case, you are told to call the "809" number right away. Since there are so many new area codes, these days, people unknowingly return these calls. If you call from the U.S. you will apparently be charged \$2,425 per minute. Or, you'll get a long recorded message. The point is, they will try to keep you on the phone as long as possible to increase the charges. Unfortunately, when you get your phone bill, you'll often be charged more than \$24,000.  
**WHY IT WORKS:**  
 The "809" area code is located in the British Virgin Islands (the Bahamas). The charges afterwards can

- become a real nightmare. That's because you did actually make the call. If you complain, both your local phone company and your long distance carrier will not want to get involved and will most likely tell you that they are simply providing the billing for the foreign company. You'll end up dealing with a foreign company that argues they have done nothing wrong. If this does happen to you, do make a report with the police, immediately. You will at least have a record of the complaint.
- There was a report, by a resident, of a homeless person being unusually aggressive at the corner of Irving Park and Monticello. Officers indicated there were aware of the person and would continue to monitor.
- Officers reported there had been reports of a purple/maroon van in the area stealing dogs. The offenders had not been apprehended.
- Officers reported an off-duty officer witnessed two suspicious juveniles on Irving Park just east of Central Park (it should be noted that this is just outside the West Walker area). The juveniles began to etch (aka deface) the side of a building. They were arrested.
- Officers reported several pod cameras had been installed, one at the southwest corner of Drake and Lawrence, one at Lawrence and Kimball, and one on Monticello. Pod cameras installations tend to move every quarter. Locations of the cameras are dependent on the number of 911 calls and are usually decided by the Commander and the Alderman in the area.

Statistics by type of crime in the West Walker neighborhood January 16-February 19, 2008:

Battery (simple) .....	4
Battery (domestic battery simple).....	4
Criminal Damage (to property) .....	4
Assault (simple).....	3
Motor Vehicle Theft (automobile).....	3
Theft over \$300 .....	2
Public Peace Violation (reckless conduct).....	2
Battery (aggravated).....	2
Criminal Damage (to vehicle) .....	1
Burglary (unlawful entry).....	1
Robbery (aggravated).....	1
Robbery (strongarm) .....	1
Theft under \$300 .....	1

CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meetings 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 March 19th. More information about CAPS is available at [www.cityofchicago.org](http://www.cityofchicago.org). Join the CAPS team of police officers, residents and City Departments working together for a safer Chicago.

# Office Report: 39th Ward

Happy Saint Patrick's Day! Come over to the **North Park Village Nature Center**, located at **5801 N. Pulaski**, for the annual **Maple Syrup Festival**. It will be held on **Saturday, March 29th** from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** This event is free and open to everyone. Come and see the entire maple syrup-making process from tapping the tree and collecting the sap, to boiling it down into syrup, and then try some of the syrup on hot pancakes. Afterwards enjoy storytelling and live music. No registration is required.

**Upcoming Events...** **Congressman Rahm Emanuel** is hosting a **FREE Income Tax Assistance Program** in his district 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 get there early – it does fill up fast. The program will be held on Saturdays from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. on the following dates: March 15th, 22nd, and 29th; April 5th and 12th. This is completely confidential, and translators are available. For more information, please contact the Tax Assistance Program at (312)409-1555 or visit [www.taxassistance.org](http://www.taxassistance.org).

Now that spring is almost here, snow will be melting and the rainy season will begin. During this time, some areas may experience standing water on the street. Most standing water is a result of sewers having **"vortex" restrictors** inside of them. When a large amount of snow melts or rain falls in a brief period of time, the sewers simply cannot handle the excessive amount of water. Once the capacity of the sewer is exceeded, water backs up into the basements of surrounding buildings. The vortex restrictors prevent sewers from exceeding capacity, and as a result, the water remains on the street for awhile instead of flooding basements.

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

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March 16, 2008  
April 20, 2008  
May 18, 2008

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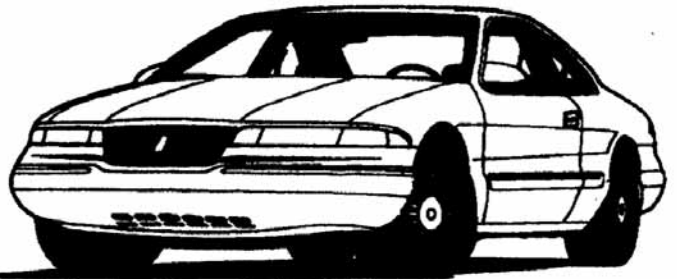
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