

WEST WALKER WIRE

JANUARY 2009

www.westwalker.org

Resolve to Join West Walker

by Liz Mills

The Board of the West Walker Civic Association would like to wish you and yours a Happy New Year! And we'd like to ask you to add one more resolution to your list – to join the WWCA.

As of November, just 28 people had joined or renewed their membership for 2008/2009. That is far below our normal numbers and jeopardizes our ability to publish the *West Walker Wire* and sponsor events and activities. In terms of our treasury, West Walker has always run lean, putting what money we do have to work to better our community. But now things are running a little too lean....

How do I know whether I'm a member?

Many people aren't sure whether their membership is current. There's an easy way to tell...if you haven't sent a check since September 1, 2008, you're not a member!

Why join?

Well if you're reading this, you already know the biggest reason. The *West Walker Wire* is published 10 months a year and delivered to 1,400 households and businesses, free of charge. It's the primary way our community stays informed about issues, crime, social events, community meetings and new businesses. Free distribution of the newsletter is the core of our mission as an organization. Advertising helps offset the cost to produce the *Wire* but we need membership money, too.

continued on page 2

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

No WWCA Meeting in January or February. See you March 17th!

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

January 22 • 4:00 p.m.
Kid's Book Discussion Group. This month's book is *The Kite Fighters* by Linda Sue Park. Recommended for readers ages 8-13. *Independence Park Branch Library - 3548 W. Irving Park*

January 23 • 6:30 p.m.
FREE MOVIE: "Journey to the Center of the Earth" *Independence Park Field House Auditorium, Springfield Ave. & Irving Park Rd.*

January 24 • 11:00 a.m.
Winnie the Pooh's I Don't Much Care Party. Family storytime featuring Winnie The Pooh. *Independence Park Branch Library - 3548 W. Irving Park*

February 22 • 2:00 p.m.
Irving Park Fine Arts Council Concert info at: <http://irvingparkfinearts.org>
Irving Park Lutheran Church 4100 N. Harding.

February 22 • 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Winter Farmers' Market
St. John's Episcopal Church - 3857 N. Kostner Ave.

Tue., Wed. & Thur. through the School Year • 3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Teacher in the Library - students can get help with their homework
Independence Park Branch Library - 3548 W. Irving Park

Through April 2009
Primary Gym, for children ages 3 - 8
St. Viator - 3644 N. Kedvale

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

WITHIN THE WIRE...

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Resolve to Join West Walker *continued from page 1*

Membership also supports

- Free special events, like the Fall Fest and 4th of July Celebration at Independence Park
- The Art in My Back Yard Artistic Series
- The Annual Community Garage Sale
- Our new and improved Web Site, www.westwalker.org
- Area non-profit groups like the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, Independence Park and Independence Library

When you join, you also demonstrate that you support and appreciate the work that our all-volunteer organization is doing. That includes the board, committees, Wire carriers, advertisers and many more.

What does it cost?

\$10 for the year for individuals and families, \$5 for seniors.

What if I usually join when I sign up for the garage sale?

That's great, except we need your membership now! By May, our year is just about over. If you do participate in the garage sale, we'll know that you're already a member!

How do I join?

See the membership on the back page of this month's *Wire*. Fill it out, enclose a check and deliver or mail it to our Treasurer, John Minor. It's the easiest resolution to check off your list!

WWCA Holiday Party Recap

More than 20 brave souls braved one of the worst snowstorms of the season to gather with friends and neighbors to celebrate the holidays. Guests were entertained by neighborhood children who played Christmas and Hanukkah selections on piano and violin. A special shout out to all our local young musicians who came out to play - including Sam, Julia, Augustine, Mary, and Gabriel. While the children played an impromptu sing-a-long began.

Plenty of homemade cookies, punch, and delicious coffee was on hand and there was a drawing for door prizes. Thanks to Smoque, the Fish Guy, Starbucks and La Villa for their generous donations! The winners were.

- Elaine Pikor – LaVilla Gift Certificate
- Ellen Amalin – Fish Guy Gift Certificate
- Mike Webber – Smoque Gift Certificate
- Carol Barry – Starbucks Gift Certificate

We are grateful to Board Member Dorie Westmeyer for organizing the event and to the Board Members who helped.

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 96 years of service to the West Walker Community

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Editor
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. Include a phone number in case we need to follow up with you.

For information on advertising, please see our Advertising Rates, Page 3.



Be A Good Neighbor - Clear Your Sidewalks This Winter!

Now that mother nature has hit us with her abundance of snowfall, and we have several more months of snow to look forward to, don't forget to be a good neighbor and clear your sidewalks.

Chicago Municipal Code holds property owners responsible for clearing the sidewalks bordering their properties after any significant snowfall. With local groceries in the neighborhood and the availability of public transportation, we have a lot of foot traffic in West Walker. Clearing sidewalks eases the way for those making their way through the area on foot. Also, if you have elderly or sick neighbors who are unable to adhere to the municipal code, please consider clearing their walks for them - you'll be a doubly good neighbor (to those who can't clear the walks, and to those thankful walkers who need to use the sidewalk).

Clear walks also helps keep walkers off the street - an often used option for many folks on foot when walks aren't clear and are too treacherous to maneuver.

If you are unable to shovel, talk to your ward office: if you live in the 33rd Ward (Alderman Dick Mell) call 773-478-8040 or 39th Ward (Alderman Margaret Laurino) call 773-736-5594.

Living Next to the Great Lakes

Welcome to 2009! Let's hope this is a great year for you, and also the Environment!

I think about water a lot of the time. That may seem odd, at this time of the year, when ice and snow are more prevalent, but this is a good time to think about indoor projects, and prepare for spring planting.

We live next to one of the greatest fresh water resources on the planet - 90% of the fresh water in the United States, and nearly 20% of the fresh water in the entire world!

In October of 2008, the Great Lakes Compact was signed into law by the President. This agreement, signed by all of the states bordering the Great Lakes, including Canada, and fully ratified by Congress, protects the Great Lakes from large withdrawals of water by other, drier states or counties outside the Basin, or even foreign countries.

What we, as residents of the Great Lakes Basin have a responsibility to commit to, along with all the various cities and municipalities that exist along the lakefront areas, is our own effort to conserve and protect the resource.

So what can individuals do to help?

Conserving and protecting the resource means using less, and using more wisely.

Start by getting a water meter installed. Once you measure how much you actually use, conserving gets much easier! I did this last July, and my water bill is nearly 6 times smaller! If you call 311, they will give you the name of an engineer at the City who can get a meter installed for you free of charge.

Install low-flow shower heads, and faucets - a small insert can be purchased for a faucet at most hardware stores. If remodeling, select a low-flush toilet. While everyone loves a hot tub or shower, try not to run the water for hours at a time. Turn off the water when brushing your teeth. Find a good drip irrigation system for the garden so as not to need to run sprays all summer - and don't forget to install a rain barrel this coming year, if you haven't already!

Water is a very precious resource - we should all do our bit to save it.

Website of the Month : "Alliance for the Great Lakes"
<http://www.greatlakes.org/Page.aspx?pid=243>

Michelle Kaicener
mkaicener@earthlink.net

West Walker Wire Advertising Rates

- Business Card - \$15/month** _____ #/months **Total \$** _____
(Must purchase a 3-month minimum)
- ¼ Page - \$25/month** _____ #/months **Total \$** _____
(3.5" wide x 4.5" high)
- ½ Page - \$50/month** _____ #/months **Total \$** _____
(7.5" wide x 4.5" high)
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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:
Laurie Gardner, 4150 N. Springfield, Chicago, 60618
ferrislaura@sbcglobal.net 773-866-0665

Community Garden Planning Meeting - January 31st

Irving Park Carlson Ministries is hosting a community meeting to present and gather input on an organic community vegetable garden the organization is sponsoring. The meeting will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Latvian Community Center, 4146 N. Elston Ave.

The garden will be located at 4107 N. Pulaski, which is presently a vacant lot owned by the Irving Park Lutheran Church. The church congregation has given permission to Carlson Ministries to use the land for a minimum of three years. Volunteers will plant, maintain and harvest the vegetable garden, the proceeds of which will be donated to the Irving Park Food Pantry. Volunteers will have an opportunity to share in the harvest as well.

At the meeting on January 31st, the community is invited to view plans for the garden, hear about volunteer opportunities and how the garden will be run, and offer input. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Irving Park Carlson Ministries is a community service 501(c)(3) serving the Irving Park community. For more information, contact Liz Mills at 773-398-6766 or lizmills@sbcglobal.net.

St. Edward School and Parish News

The St. Edward community hopes everyone had a wonderful Christmas and would like to express best wishes for a happy new year! School re-opened on January 5th and is buzzing with activity!

2009 Kids Free Throw Championship!

On Sunday, January 18, 2009, the Knights of Columbus will sponsor the 2009 Free Throw Championship at St. Edward. The contest is for boys and girls ages 10-14 and will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the school gym. Each contestant will have 15 free throw attempts from an age appropriate foul line. Tie breakers will have 5 additional free throws. This event is Council wide (7 parishes) and winners will go on to compete in the District Level Competition. The event is free and open to the public – so kids, come on out and show off your skills! For more information contact Patrick Villalobos at 773-628-4067.

School Open House

Discovery Sunday 2009 will be held on January 25 from 10:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Open House is an opportunity to see the school and learn about its preschool through 8th grade education program. Visitors will meet faculty and students and learn about the school's values-oriented curriculum and computer, after school care, music and sports programs, and other extracurricular activities.

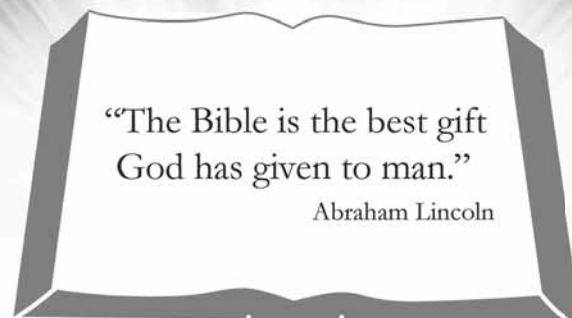
Big Red Rocks – Save the Date!

Save the date – February 7 – for the first ever St. Edward School “Big Red Rocks!” A night of music and fun, Big Red Rocks will feature a variety of bands, including Mr. Slate, The Moms, The Rain Kings and Glass ½ Empty, as well as the many talented musicians from the St. Edward community. The event will be held in the school gym from 8:00 p.m. to midnight and will benefit the St. Edward Tuition Assistance Program. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door. Food, and beer and wine will be available so come out for a good time! Partygoers must be 21 to attend.

St. Edward Stars!

Congratulations to Chloe Chaparro who won Second Place in the Knights of Columbus Art Contest for Christmas. Congratulations are also in order for the St. Edward Scholastic Bowl team who came in 2nd place on December 13 at St. Ignatius High School. The team members included: Peter Voss, Justin Joseph, Martin Nyberg, Kilian White and Daniel Washelesky.

The January school board meeting will be held Monday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the lower church. For more information, call the school at 773-736-9133.



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God has given to man.”

Abraham Lincoln

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MONDAY TO SATURDAY · 10 to 6

Bungalow Update

by Caroline Bilicki

A group of about 25 community members, representatives from the Chicago Park District, Bailey Edward Design, and various city departments met in December to meet the newly-hired architect for the Independence Park Bungalow Renovation Project and hear updates about the project.

Brendan Daley, the Chicago Park District's project manager assigned to the Bungalow, explained the steps his office took which lead to the hiring of the architect for the project's design and construction administration. The multi-step process began in August 2008 and concluded with the hiring of Bailey Edwards Design in December.

According to Daley, the general scope of the project includes renovating the bungalow, garage, and immediate surrounding grounds of the building. Specific projects include repairing and restoring the roof; restoring windows and doors; putting in a new mechanical system for increase efficiency; upgrading systems – plumbing, electricity, gas, etc. And all of this will be done while both maintaining consistency with historic bungalow design and executing green design.

Daley hopes that construction will begin in late spring/early summer. The park district hopes to use the bungalow as a demonstration tool for green building education, showcasing elements of the design in an easily visible manner.

Daley thanked the community for its commitment to fundraising and said that once construction begins, they will have a better idea of what things cost and how to allocate the Park District's budget for the project.

Robyn Whitehurst and Greg Williams from Bailey Edward Design spoke briefly about Bailey Edward Design's experience – 17 years – and expertise – restoration, residential and green projects for the state of Illinois and others. BED specializes in adaptive reuse, windows, and community-involved projects. BED has done several residential bungalow restoration/renovations. Robyn Whitehurst, a principal of the firm will serve as project manager. Greg Williams, his colleague, is the "project captain."

Margaret Laurino, 39th Ward Alderman, announced that the department of Environment had awarded the project a \$100,000 grant to build a geo-thermal heating/cooling system. Part of a settlement with People's Energy, the grant allows the project to dig 700 feet into the ground to heat/cool the building through geo-thermal gas and a heat exchanger.

For more information, go to www.greenbungalowproject.org.



www.GreenBungalowProject.org

Margaret Laurino
Alderman
39th Ward

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4404 West Lawrence Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60630-2511
Ward Office: (773) 736-5594
Ward39@cityofchicago.org



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CAPS Report

by Pam Maremont

The December CAPS meeting was sparsely attended with no new issues being raised in the West Walker area. An officer from the Internal Affairs department was there to give a brief presentation covering two specific areas — racial profiling and filing a complaint or compliment. The Chicago Police Department strictly prohibits racial profiling* as the sole reason for questioning or stopping a citizen and all officers are expected to follow department guidelines around profiling. If you want to file a complaint or compliment an officer you can call the Independent Police Review Authority at 312-745-3594 or visit www.IPRACHicago.org.

**Racial Profiling — any arrest, detention, interdiction, or other law enforcement action that is based solely on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, national origin or ancestry of the targeted person.*

Statistics by type of crime in the West Walker neighborhood: (November 19 - December 17, 2008)

Criminal Damage to vehicle.....	4
Burglary (unlawful entry).....	3
Theft \$300 and over	3
Theft \$300 and under	2
Domestic Battery	2
Criminal Damage to Property	2
Battery	1
Aggravated Robbery.....	1
Non-criminal Missing Person.....	1
Theft Purse Snatching.....	1
Simple Assault.....	1

CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meetings for 2008 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 January 21.

News from St. Viator

Upcoming Open Houses

Take a peek inside St. Viator – and mark your calendar for our upcoming open houses:

- Saturday, January 24, 2009 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. followed by a mass at 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 6, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Showcasing our preschool and kindergarten programs in action

St. Viator 7th and 8th Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of the Steve Hammond Scholarship: Ana Rubin De Celis, Michelle Bollin, and Adrian Lara. The Steve Hammond scholarship fund was started in 1999 in memory of Steve Hammond who passed away in 1998. Mr. Hammond spent 20 years teaching science to St. Viator’s students.

Congratulations to the winner of the Margaret Burns Scholarship: Kyrsten Hoffman. The Margaret Burns scholarship also began in 1999 in memory of Margaret Burns by her daughter. The Burns families were parishioners at St. Viator Church.

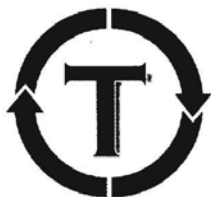
Valentine’s Dance

Friday, February 13, 2009, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. St. Viator’s Social Club invites you to the Viator Valentine’s Dance in the gym (3644 North Kedvale). The cost will include: dinner, beverage, dessert, DJ, games and crafts. All parents and/or grandparents are invited to bring their children/grandchildren from pre-K through 4th grade.

Adopt-A-Classroom

St. Viator has launched the nationally recognized “Adopt-A-Classroom” program. Each teacher creates a “wish list” of additional items they would like for their classroom. Parents, alumni, neighbors and businesses can go directly to the Adopt-A-Classroom website and make a tax deductible donation to the teacher or grade of their choice. Please take a look at the website and see what St. Viator’s teachers are wishing for www.adoptaclassroom.com.

For additional information on St. Viator, please visit www.stviatorchicago.org or call the school office at 773-545-2173.



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Office Report: 39th Ward

I hope everyone in the West Walker community enjoyed a happy holiday season. Although it's only January, winter has already taken a toll. The first snow storms of the season brought a barrage of complaints about the lack of plowing and salting of city streets. It appears that the city has resolved some of these problems and has stepped up their efforts. Now we're faced with more and more potholes on the streets. If you see potholes in the neighborhood, I encourage you to call my office (773-736-5594) with the exact location and my staff will log it in the city's system.

As you know, Congressman Rahm Emanuel has resigned to become President Obama's Chief of Staff. His departure in the 5th Congressional District requires a special election be held to fill the vacancy. The date of the **Primary Election is Tuesday, March 3** and the **General Election is Tuesday, April 7.**

If you're thinking about replacing your sidewalks this year, consider applying for the city's **Shared Cost Sidewalk Program**. Through the Shared Cost Program, the city and property owners share the cost of sidewalk improvements, resulting in a substantial savings to property owners. Applications will only be accepted through the city's 311 system. To apply to the program, just call 311 and an operator will enter your information. Since this is a first come, first served program, if you are interested the Shared Cost Program I suggest applying as soon as possible. In previous years, demand has exceeded the program's capacity. When this happens, the city will close the application process for 2009.

As always, please contact my office with any questions or concerns.

*Sincerely,
Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward*

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WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*Yearly Membership Dues
Effective September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009*

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: _____

Your Membership Dues Are Used To:

- Publish 10 issues per year of the West Walker Wire, delivered to residences and businesses in West Walker, free of charge.
- Sponsor Free Special Events, like the Fall Fest and 4th of July Celebration at Independence Park
- Present the Art in My Back Yard Artistic Series
- Put on the Annual Community Garage Sale
- Support area non-profit groups like the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, Independence Park and Independence Library.

Please make your check payable to: WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Mail or drop off your application and dues to:

John Minor
4326 N. Hamlin Ave.
Chicago, IL 60618