

WESTWALKER ——WIRE——

MARCH 2009

www.westwalker.org

March Meeting Packed with Guest Speakers

Now that the weather is showing signs of spring, and residents haven't gathered for a meeting since December - why not come find out about activities going on around West Walker? Join us for the first meeting of 2009 on Tuesday, March 17, at 7:30 at the Latvian Community Center located at 4146 N. Elston.

Several speakers will be featured at the March meeting including:

- Chris Sauve Recycling Coordinator for the Department of Streets and Sanitation
- Lara Pacelt Irving Park YMCA
- Natalie Boyett The Chicago Weaving School

But wait - there's more! We'll also have free drawings for prizes from Pivot Point International Beauty School, the Irving Park YMCA, Yoga in the 'Hood and The Chicago Weaving School.

Families Can Get Tax Preparation Assistance

Families earning less than \$45,000 and individuals earning less than \$20,000 can get free tax preparation assistance from professionally trained volunteers. The Tax Counseling Project and the Tax Assistance Program, both Chicago-area non-profit programs, offer assistance at 30 sites in Chicago. Residents should bring all current W2 and 1099 forms, Social Security cards for all members of the household, a copy of your last recent tax return, and photo identification. For more information call 311 or download a flyer from the City's website at: http://egov.cityofchicago.org/webportal/COCWebPortal/COC_ATTACH/2008EITCFlyerEnglish.pdf

WITHIN THE WIRE...

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 16 - April 2 ● 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Early Voting for April 7th Special General Election begins. North Park Village, 5801 N. Pulaski

March 17 ● 7:30 p.m. WWCA General Meeting Latvian Community Center 4146 N. Elston Ave.

March 18 • 7:00 p.m. Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting 17th District Police Station Community Room - 4650 N. Pulaski

March 19 • 6:30 p.m.
Internet Safety Seminar - Learn
how to keep your child safe from
unanticipated online threats. Free for
all adults.
Disney II gym, 3815 N. Kedvale.

March 28 ● 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.
IPAC Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
Independence Park Fieldhouse
Irving Park & Springfield (see page 3)

March 28 ● 6:00 p.m. to midnight St. Edward Big Red Auction Buckley Hall, 4343 W. Sunnyside (more on page 9)

April 4 • 12:15 to 2:15 p.m. Annual Easter Egg Hunt Athletic Field Park Addison & Drake (info on page 3)

April 5
Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast
St. Edward school gym
4343 W. Sunnyside (see page 9)

April 7 ● 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Special General Election http://www.voterinfonet.com

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



Dear Neighbor:

March – In like a lion, out like a lamb. Here's hoping! This has been a tough winter and every year I wonder why I still live in Chicago. And every summer I remember why . . . our neighbors!

A little neighborly cheer helped warm our bones at this year's Annual Winter Social in February at The Baked Tomato. It was a lot of fun with good food, great company and a very reasonable cash bar. A special shout out goes to the always lovely and exceptionally talented event coordinators and Ms. Cindi Webber. Thank you also to those very generous individuals and organizations who donated raffle prizes:

- Instant Wine Cellar Event Committee
- Gift Certificate from Hot Wok Cool Sushi.
- Key Lime Cove Gift Certificate WMAQ via Tara McKee
- Xanadu Tickets- WMAQ via Tara McKee

This month's speakers promise more exciting activities for West Walker.

- Chris Sauve, a recycling coordinator for the Department of Streets and Sanitation will join us and give a short presentation on the City's Blue Cart Program coming soon to West Walker. Those of you who have signed the petitions to get the Blue Carts... your wait is almost over!
- Lara Pacelt from the Irving Park YMCA will be acquainting us with the classes and facilities available at our local Y. Also, the Y will be hosting a Free Family Fun Afternoon in the coming weeks. Watch for details in the near future.
- We will also be introduced to the Chicago Weaving School which opened this fall - right in the neighborhood at 4268 W. Irving Park.
 Owner Natalie Boyett will show us weaving handiwork of her students, tell us about upcoming classes and donate a free class as a raffle prize to a meeting attendee.

Sounds like an exciting time – look forward to seeing you soon!

Carol Barry West Walker Secretary

P.S. – We really need members so we can keep putting out this newsletter. Memberships expire at the end of June each year. Please don't wait for the garage sale to join. We Need You! Please visit the WWCA website (www.westwalker.org) to download an application or visit us at the March meeting - we will have forms and can collect your dues.

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 Tigue

The West Walker Wire is published monthly by the West Walker Civic Association.

All story ideas, text and ads are due a week before the first of the month.
Submit ideas and text to:
west_walker_wire@yahoo.com.
Please include a phone number in case we need to follow up with you.

For information on advertising, please see our Advertising Rates, Page 5.



WWCA Members

Thanks for renewing or becoming members of WWCA! A list of those neighbors who have joined or renewed since our February issue is included below. If you still need to join or renew, visit our website at www.westwalker.org to download an application.

> Lisa Adams Greg & Sonya Blacker Priscilla & Nelson Brown Nick & Margaret Calderone Marcey Derfler Laura Ell & Dave Knickerbocker Connie & Davor Engel Laurie & Ed Gardner

Conni & Dale Heminover Eileen Hughes & Douglas Padian (correction to Feb. list)

W. Joseph & Ginia Jahrke

Jackie Kazarian & Peter Cunningham

Tarin & Steve Kendrick

Karen & Keith Kreinik

Kay & Craig LaSota

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Barbara Rieffel

Larry Russon

Maureen Shea & Paul White

Megan & Eric Stalder

Sarah Steedman & Chris Bushell

Marvin & Faye Weinstein

Virginia Wendt

Joyce Winer & David Kaplan

MarySue & Michael Witchger

Johanna & Eric Zorn

Margaret Laurino Alderman 39th Ward

39th Ward Public Service Office 4404 West Lawrence Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60630-2511 Ward Office: (773) 736-5594 Ward39@cityofchicago.org





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

Spaghetti Dinner Benefit for Independence Park

Independence Park Advisory Council will hold it's 20th Annual Spaghetti Dinner, Saturday, March 28, 4 to 8 p.m. Spaghetti, minestrone soup, bread, salad and desserts will be served by the Boy Scouts. Tickets for the event are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for children ages 3 to 12, and children under 3 are free. Beverages will be available for an additional charge. The evening will include a silent auction as well as a raffle for prizes. Entertainment includes a demonstration by Arabesque, Chicago's North Side Belly Dancing School, as well as a visit from Frank Sinatra (sort of) This annual dinner is a major fundraiser for the park, and will be held in the Fieldhouse located at Irving Park and Springfield. For more information email Pat Clark at pat.clark1973@yahoo.com or visit www.ipac-chicago.org.

Athletic Field Park Annual Easter Egg Hunt set for April 4th

Athletic Field Park's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 4th. The Chicago Park District charges a \$3.00 fee for each participant. Children can hunt for eggs at the following times.

12 mos – 24 mos: 12:15 -12:45 2 -3 yrs.: 12:45 –1:15 4-5 yrs.: 1:15 - 1:45 6-7 yrs.: 1:45 - 2:00

8-10 yrs.: 2:00 - 2:15

the show.

At 12:45, there will be a special magic and illusion show (weather permitting) with Mr. D. See http://chicagofun.com/mrdsmagic/ for details on

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Green Thumb Opportunities Await in Irving Park

The Irving Park Garden Club is looking for new members! Plans for this season are already underway. Aside from gardening, the group has scheduled lively and entertaining guest speakers, the annual Plant Exchange/Pot Luck luncheon in May, the Garden Walk in July and a couple of garden related field trips planned as well. The Irving Park Garden Club is now joining forces with the newly formed Portage Park Garden Club, opening up meetings to members of both clubs. The hope is that combining limited resources will enable the groups to afford to engage a guest speaker or two that would be too cost prohibitive for either clubs to do individually. The first meeting of the season for the Irving Park Garden Club will be on March 21 at 10:00 am at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner. The Garden Club is open to all and you don't even have to have a garden to join. For more information, contact Maureen Taylor, Vice President, Irving Park Garden Club 773-255-2789 or maurred@aol.com.

Magic After-School Program Accepting Students for Spring Session

Now that several school-sponsored after-school programs have ended, the Magic After-School Place (MAP) is accepting students into the program through the end of May. The program is sponsored by Irving Park Carlson Ministries and is held in the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym at 4057 N. Harding. The program is open to children in 1st through 6th grade, who are picked up from Belding and Murphy schools and walked to the program by program staff.

MAP offers healthy snacks, a nurturing environment, homework help, a reading nook, playtime and tutoring. The program meets Monday through Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuition is very reasonable and is offered free of charge for children receiving free/reduced lunch. High school students seeking community service hours are encouraged to check out the program. Adult volunteers are always welcome.

For more information, contact Aryn Fletcher at 773.463.9272 or e-mail: magicafterschoolplace@comcast.net.

CAPS Report

www.westwalker.org

There were no new issues raised in the West Walker area and crime in the 17th district has been lower over the last few months. The meeting opened with a short presentation on auto theft prevention with several suggestions on what you can do to safeguard your car.

- Never hide spare keys in a secret place or in a magnetic key box under the hood. Car thieves routinely check visors and ash trays, and look under floor mats for keys.
- Some thieves use tow trucks to take cars. To avoid being towed by a thief, turn your wheels toward the curb and apply the emergency brake.
- If you have a garage, use it. Lock both your car and the garage.
- Avoid leaving your automatic garage door opener in your car. Don't make it easy for a thief who enters your garage through a side door and breaks into your car to get the vehicle out.
- Keep your vehicle title at home, not in the glove compartment of your car. This will prevent a thief from using the title to "prove" he owns the car.

Statistics by type of crime in the West Walker neighborhood (January 21 – February 18, 2009):

Burgiary (unlawful entry)	2
Domestic Battery	2
Criminal Damage to Property	2
Battery	2
Weapons Violation	2
Motor Vehicle Theft	2
Theft \$300 and over	. 1
Criminal Damage to vehicle	1
Aggravated Robbery	1
Theft. Attempted Financial Identity Theft	1
Damage to Property	. 1
Harassment by Telephone	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 March 18.

www.westwalker.org West Walker Wire

WEST WALKER

News Irving Park Community Food Pantry

The following statistics paint a stark picture of the increase in need in these difficult economic times!

January 2008:

398 families representing 1160 individuals

January 2009:

479 households representing 1417 individuals!

Our thanks for the tremendous community support for the 2008 Holiday season and into 2009. Many people and organizations organized food and toy drives as well as other fundraising or volunteer efforts to help the Pantry.

Food Drives

The following organizations have organized food drives in the upcoming months:

- Irving Park Lutheran Church (April, 2009)
 3938 W. Belle Plaine Ave., Chicago. (773) 267-1666.
- Irving Park Baptist Church: (March, 2009)
 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago.. (773) 286-6800.
- Schurz High School (TBA) 3601 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago.. (773) 534-3420.

If you or your organization want to organize a food drive or fundraiser, please contact the Pantry.

Updated Website

Please visit our website at www.irvingparkfoodpantry. com and watch for exciting new changes. We've migrated to a new web server and will be posting updated content, photos and even video on a regular basis. You can donate online and sign up for regular emails to keep up with news.

Fundraising

For the 12th consecutive year, the Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1 million among hunger-fighting agencies nationwide using it to help them raise funds during March and April, 2009. The more donations we receive during this time – the more Feinstein money IPCFP will get.

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry serves all of 60641 and 60618 west of Kedzie. We are open from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM every Wednesday.

Please feel free to contact the pantry if you are in need of food, if you want to volunteer or donate – or if you would like to visit us to see us in action.

E-mail: IrvPkFoodPantry@aol.com

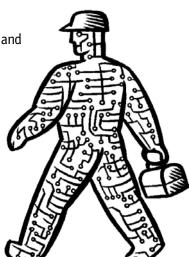
Phone: 773-283-6296

Website: http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.com

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Send all ad copy and payments (and any ad questions) to: Laurie Gardner, 4150 N. Springfield, Chicago, 60618 ferrislaura@sbcglobal.net 773-866-0665



Neighbors shake off Winter Blues at February Social

The snow and freezing rain couldn't keep West Walker socialites away from another successful Winter Social. Fifty hearty neighbors and friends gathered at The Baked Tomato for drinks, delicious pizza, appetizers and sandwiches. Newcomers and old timers alike enjoyed lively conversation and lots of laughs.

The WWCA Board would like to offer a big thanks to Cindi Webber for organizing the event. Members of the Special Events Committee who helped Cindi were Ellen Darnieder, Laurie Gardner, Tarin Kendrick, Helen Lira, Tara McKee, Liz Mills, Jane Nagle, Theresa Rasmussen and Dorie Westmeyer.

Thanks to the following businesses who provided drawing prizes, and to the Baked Tomato for accommodating us. Prize winners were:

- One Night Stay at Key Lime Cove (NBC5) Jenny O'Donnell
- Four tickets to Xanadu (NBC5) Tarin Kendrick
- Wine Basket (Special Events Committee) Davor Engel
- \$20 Gift Certificate to Hot Woks Cool Sushi (Hot Woks, Cool Sushi) -- Mike Witchger

Ticket sales and the drawing netted the WWCA \$232. Thanks to all who came and enjoyed the party, and to those who organized it!



WWCA Winter Social



Left: Steve Kendrick & MarySue Witchger welcome guests to the West Walker Winter Social.

Below: Ed Gardner, Pat McKee, Davor Engel and Mel Westmeyer gather at the bar at The Baked Tomato.



Left: Sarah Steedman & Laura Ell share a laugh.





Left: Betsy Minor, David Ehle, Larry Russon and Michelle Bushonville get ready for the raffle.

West Walker Civic Association 24th Annual Neighborhood Garage and Yard Sale Saturday May 16, 2009, 9am to 4pm - Rain or Shine

All West Walker residents are invited to participate in our 24th Annual Garage and Yard Sale.

The sale will be advertised in the Chicago Tribune and local 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 and obtain the permits for all paid participants. To accomplish this, we must have your paid application to participate by **May 11, 2009.**

Return the form below to have your address listed as a participant in the sale, along with your application fee. For further information call Bob Crowley at (773) 267-1921.

Cost to participate is \$5.00 for WWCA members and \$10.00 for non-members. Fees cover:

- Purchasing ads in newspapers
- Printed flyers, posters and signage prior to and during the sale
- Distribution of maps throughout the area
- Processing of garage sale application and delivery of maps and the permit to your home

W	EST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION GARAGE AND YARD SALE Saturday, May 16, 2009
	Saturday, Iviay 10, 2007
NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	
E-MAIL:	
	urrent member of the West Walker Civic Association. d is my \$5.00 participation fee.
I am not fee.	a member of the West Walker Civic Association. Enclosed is my \$10.00 participation
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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



39th Ward Report

The first round of the city's **Blue Cart Recycling program** reached the eastern part of the 39th Ward this month. From all accounts, the program has been very well-received and quite successful.

I am pleased to announce that the City's Blue Cart Recycling Program is coming to the rest of the 39th Ward, including the West Walker community. Blue carts are scheduled to be delivered by April. The Blue Cart expansion includes residences from Central Park to Cicero Ave. and Devon to the southern boundaries of the 39th Ward. Residences receiving carts will also be given literature instructions on how and what to recycle.

The city is scheduling several informational community meetings to answer questions about the program, and will have a guest speaker this month to do a short presentation at West Walker's March general meeting. The full informational community meetings closest in proximity to the West Walker community are:

Wednesday, March 18, 7:00 p.m. Kilbourn Park 3501 N. Kilbourn Saturday, March 21, 10:00 a.m. Mayfair Library 4400 W. Lawrence Monday, March 23, 7:00 p.m. North Park Village 5801 N. Pulaski

If you're planning to park on the street at a meter, be sure to bring along some extra change. Parking meter rates are increasing on the North, West, and South sides to \$1 an hour. In the Loop, rates are \$3.50 an hour and the non-Loop Central Business District is \$2 an hour.

The Board of Elections will conduct a **Special General Election** on **Tuesday, April 7**, to fill the vacancy in the 5th Congressional District. **Early voting** will take place in the 39th Ward at **North Park Village, 5801 N. Pulaski, March 16 – April 2, Monday - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Please feel free to contact my 39th Ward Public Service office at 773-736-5594 or Ward39@cityofchicago.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Margaret Laurino Alderman, 39th Ward



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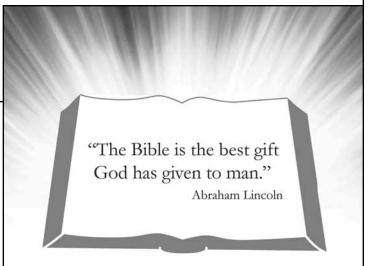
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Park View Lutheran Church and School News

Park View Lutheran School is now accepting registrations for the 2009-2010 school year. There will be Open Houses held on Sun. March 15, Sun. April 26 and Sun. May 17 from 12 – 2 PM. Come and meet the teachers and visit the school. Preschool class is open to 3 and 4 year olds – and new students are welcome, pending class availability.

The church will be celebrating the Last Supper and Maundy Thursday Service on Thur April 9 at 6:30 PM. Dinner will be provided, and all are welcome – please RSVP to the Church office at 773-267-0072. Fri, April 10 is Good Friday with a service at 11 AM.

Easter Sunday will start out with a festive Breakfast from 8:30 -10 AM. Donations: Adults - \$6, Children - \$4. Following breakfast will be a Eucharist Service at 11 AM. All are welcome. Park View Lutheran Church is located at 3919 N. Monticello or online at www.parkviewlutheran.org.

News from Belding School

Belding Selected for "Sister City" Program

Mayor Daley has started a pilot program with sister city Busan, Korea. Belding was one of twelve Chicago Public Schools invited to participate in this program. As part of the program, two Busan English Language Teachers are spending the next three months at Belding observing classroom teachers. Mrs. Jung Hee Uih and Ms. Eun Hye Sim will also be sharing with Belding's teachers and students about the life, language, and customs in Korea.

On February 3, of the twelve schools in the pilot program, Belding was the only school to host the Korean Education Mayor. During his visit, the Education Mayor was accompanied by a crew who filmed the entire day to create a documentary of the visit to Chicago and Belding Elementary.

Registration for Kindergarten: March 23 – March 26

Kindergarten registration and enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year will be from March 23rd through the 26th. This timeline applies for all children who will be age 5 by September 1st and live within the Belding attendance boundaries. After March 26th, any leftover spots will be given to those students who live outside the attendance boundaries and applied to Belding via the "Options for Knowledge" program.

St. Edward School and Parish News

Big Red Auction

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. The gala will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2009 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 8:30PM and the dress is casual. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Partygoers must be 21 to attend.

Pancake Breakfast

St. Edward will host a Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast on April 5, 2009. The annual breakfast event will be held in the school gym at 4343 W. Sunnyside Ave.

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

Happenings at

St. Viator Elementary School

Registration for 2009-10

Registration is currently underway for grades preK-3 to 8th. Please be aware that there are a limited number of Preschool and Kindergarten seats available, and visit or call the School Office 773-545-2173 to schedule a private tour. Registration forms are available at www.stviatorchicago.org. Seats can be reserved until May 27, 2009 with a \$100 deposit.

Theater at St. Viator - Late Nite Catechism

This interactive, Off-Broadway show is a one-woman play featuring an outlandish nun who is guaranteed to have you laughing out loud in no time. Hold onto your song books and join in the fun! The performance will be Saturday, April 25, 2009 in the Recreation Center. Doors open at 6 p.m. (appetizers and cash bar) and the performance begins promptly at 7 p.m. and is open to those age 21 and older. Visit www.stviatorchicago. org for pricing and VIP seating information.

Phone: 773-539-1200 Fax: 773-539-1482



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The FishGuy Market, Bill Dugan, proprietor





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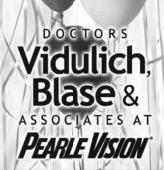
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