

WEST WALKER WIRE

JUNE 2009

www.westwalker.org

SAVE THE DATE! Art In My Back Yard Exhibition In October

by Jackie Kazarian

The next Art In My Back Yard exhibition will feature paintings, photographs and video from eleven artists who examine the landscape and bring attention to things we often overlook. The show, *BUY LAND*, alludes to the recent plunge in real estate values and takes its title from Mark Twain, who wrote, "Buy land, they're not making it anymore." The show opens in October, 2009, during Chicago Artists Month, in a space to be announced.

AIMBY's art exhibitions make use of empty storefronts, with each show both enhancing the space and drawing attention to its commercial possibilities. Volunteers clean, paint and reopen the space as a temporary gallery. Since all proceeds from art sales go directly to the artists, it's a win-win situation for everyone involved - artists, property owners and the community. Our last space was rented immediately after the exhibition closed and is now a new antique store, due to open soon.

While many arts organizations are cutting back, AIMBY is small enough to persevere, but we can use your help. If you'd like to volunteer your time and expertise or would like to contribute financially, contact Liz Mills at lizmills@sbcglobal.net or send a check to West Walker Civic Association, c/o Liz Mills, 4115 N. Harding, Chicago, IL 60618. Past contributions have been used for rental fees, insurance, track lighting, painting supplies, reception and promotional materials.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEE OUR EXPANDED
COMMUNITY CALENDAR
ON PAGES 6 and 7.

There are many activities going on in and around West Walker this summer - be sure to take advantage of them!

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

Time to take a Break...



School is almost out, many folks are working summer hours, and taking time to relax and enjoy the warm weather!

That means it's time too for the *Wire* to take it's Summer Vacation - so there are no editions in July or August.

Have a GREAT Summer - the *Wire* will return in September... thanks for being a regular reader of the *Wire*!

WITHIN THE WIRE...

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Dear Neighbor:

This comprises my last newsletter as the *West Walker Wire* Editor. It's hard for me to believe I've been doing this since December 2006 – it honestly doesn't seem like nearly three years! I hope that my tenure has proven to be positive for you, the readers of the *Wire*, as I know it has been a positive experience for me.

My time serving as the editor and a member of the board have really been rewarding. I've been able to meet so many of my neighbors that I may not have otherwise, and have learned we have a lot of truly dedicated folks living in this one half mile by one half mile square of neighborhood. I can't begin to express to you the level of service my fellow board members and other volunteers within West Walker put into keeping our neighborhood such a wonderful place to live. They regularly interface with:

- The Alderman's Office on a variety of community issues
- Staff at the Park and Library to advocate for more programming
- Neighboring community organizations to partner up on events
- Community Policing representatives to keep safety first

Members of the board and other regularly involved volunteers also:

- Organize events and activities open to the neighborhood for adults, kids and families
- Work to bring more culture and art to the area
- Enlighten us to becoming stewards of our environment
- Get our organization onto the info superhighway
- Meet with property owners and potential developers to ensure that West Walker's Vision, which was generated with your input, continues on course

I have a much deeper appreciation, understanding, and respect for what it takes to keep a community such as ours moving in the right direction thanks to my time as Editor and working with the WWCA Board.

The reason I step down is my husband (self-proclaimed foodie Ed Matos) and I will become first-time parents this summer. We are very happy/excited/scared at starting this new chapter in our lives, and I felt the need to relinquish the *Wire* editorship so I could concentrate on my new job as mommy, as well as trying to figure out how to make it work with my regular 40-hour a week job, while still keeping our four-legged children (our dog, and two kitties) from feeling neglected.

I have really enjoyed being the *Wire* editor and will miss it, but hope that after things with a newborn settle down I can be involved in West Walker in other ways. I hope as a parent I am able to instill in my child the importance of not just living in their community, but being an active part in it. This is something I learned from my parents who volunteered in a variety of service, religious and school organizations; and seeing their commitment made an impact on my view of the world, how I have shaped my place in it, and my responsibility to it.

Part of that responsibility is passing the torch. For the *Wire*, that torch is being passed on to Anne Marie O'Kelley. Anne Marie has a background that is well suited to take over the *Wire*, and I hope you will all warmly welcome her to the position and continue to provide her news, calendar items, and photos for use in the *Wire* going forward.

So with that, I bid the *Wire* adios... but not West Walker. I'll still be around and plan to do my part to continue fostering a sense of community, responsibility, friendship, and service to my neighbors. I'll see you around the neighborhood (as I push a stroller and walk my dog)!

Beth Tigue
Outgoing *Wire* Editor

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

2008-2009 OFFICERS

President	VACANT
Vice-President	Mike Webber 539-8346
Secretary	Carol Barry 478-5696
Treasurer	John Minor

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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Pat & Marianne Turk**

Editor
Beth Tigue

The West Walker Wire is published monthly September through June 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 contact Laurie Gardner at 773-866-0665 or ferrislaura@sbcglobal.net.



WWCA Members

Thanks for renewing or becoming members of WWCA! A list of those neighbors who have joined or renewed since our May issue is included below.

- Jim & Jody Cicero
- Doreen Kolasinski
- Deborah & David Koller
- Catherine Lawler
- Kevin & Wanda McDonald
- Frederick Mosher
- Christopher Novak
- Richard Pallach & Steve Bybee
- Stanley & Elaine Pikor
- Tapestry Fellowship
- Helen Taylor

REMINDER TO ALL WWCA MEMBERS: MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS COMING!

Don't forget WWCA membership runs September 1st through August 31st annually. So that means your membership renewal will be come due in September.

Your paid dues help fund a variety of items:

- 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.

Be sure to bring your 2009-2010 dues to our next WWCA meeting September 15th. Have a great summer!

CORRECTION

We included the wrong time in the article last month about the Farmer's Markets going on this summer at Independence Park. Markets will run 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We apologize for the mistake!

Changes to West Walker Board for 2009-2010

The West Walker Civic Association Board of Directors would like to thank **Mark Pascale** and **Beth Tigue** who will be stepping down from the board effective in August. We appreciate your service to the community! At the May meeting, the following officers were elected to serve in 2009/2010:

- President:** Mike Webber
- Vice President:** Davor Engel
- Secretary:** Carol Barry
- Treasurer:** John Minor

New members are still needed to join the board West Walker Civic Association board of directors. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Mike Webber at 539.8346.

SAVE THE DATE! Art In My Back Yard Exhibition In October

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ART IN MY BACK YARD BENEFIT PARTY

Join us for an evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, music and art at GALLERY 4052, a new exhibition space in the neighborhood. The evening will feature video by Chris Novak, painting by Jackie Kazarian and music by Eddie Torrez.

**Sunday July 19
7-9 pm**

\$25 suggested donation

Make checks payable to West Walker Civic Association. For details, contact Jackie Kazarian at jk@jackiekazarian.net.

Gallery 4052
opening July 2009
4052 N. Avers Avenue
Chicago, IL 60618
773-294-9464
jk@jackiekazarian.net

Gallery Hours: Thursday-Saturday, by appointment



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WWCA General Meeting Minutes - May 19, 2009

Miss Janet, Juvenile Librarian from the Chicago Public Library, spoke about the Summer Reading Program, **Land of Lincoln Readers**. The program will be in partnership with the Chicago History Museum (formerly known as The Chicago Historical Society). Children ages three to fourteen are invited to learn about Abraham Lincoln and Illinois. Children ages three to nine who read (or have read to them) twenty-five picture books will earn a Reader's T-shirt. Children over age nine who read ten chapter books will earn a T-shirt as well. Weekly book raffles, author visits, performers and presenters are just some of the activities that are featured throughout the summer.

Mark Pascale, Art Institute Curator of the Department of Prints & Drawings on The Modern Wing presented a PowerPoint slide show with before and after photos of the new wing at the Art Institute of Chicago, and distributed discount flyers for membership at Art Institute.

Vision Committee: Liz Mills reported that AIMBY (Art In My Back Yard) has moved the upcoming *Buy Land* show to October from June.

Marketing/Newsletter: Beth Tigie is stepping down. We are still in need of her replacement.

Garage Sale: The sale did well with more than 70 households participating – several more than last year.

Thanks and Best Wishes to Mark and Beth for their service to the West Walker Community over the last several years.

Don't forget the new WWCA meeting schedule – September, October, December, March, April, May

Presentation of the Mary Brown Good Neighbor Award has been moved to the Fall.

I-Go (www.lgocars.com) is new at Independence Park and currently has one parking space in the North Lot.

Nominating Committee/Elections: Nominating Committee Jane Nagle presented the following slate for election:

- President, Mike Webber; Vice President, Davor Engel;
- Secretary, Carol Barry; Treasurer, John Minor. Hearing
- no nominations from the floor, a motion was made to
- elect all candidates, was seconded and approved.
- Congratulations officers!
- Adjourn

HELP WANTED: ADVERTISING COORDINATOR

FOR THE WEST WALKER WIRE



- Solicit new ads/follow up with previous advertisers
- Collect paperwork and payment for new/recurring ads
- Gather artwork from advertisers and submit to Wire Editor
- Coordinate final list of monthly ads with Wire Editor for inclusion in each issue
- Time commitment is only a few hours a month

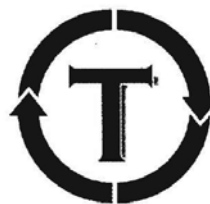
Interested? Want More Information?
Contact Advertising Coordinator Laurie Gardner at
ferrislaura@sbcglobal.net or 773-866-0665

Housekeeping/Personal Assistant

- Educated, trustworthy neighborhood mom available for:
- House cleaning, laundry, gardening, lawn care
 - Errands (dry cleaning, groceries, etc)
 - Home organization (spring cleaning, move packing, home office, other projects as needed)

Contact Lisa @ 312.352.4776 or
lisa.a.adams@gmail.com

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Green Buildings

I recently watched a great video on the topic of New Urbanism. It got me thinking about what adds value, and what does not, in neighborhoods.

I think that, if asked, most people will say they value a sense of community, neighborhoods that have good shopping and restaurants in easy walking distance, and a pleasant environment - trees, gardens and good building design. In short, a living environment that offers us a "sense of place."

On the other hand, most would say they don't like congestion, being stuck in traffic and breathing polluted air, surrounded by acres of sterile concrete, with limited access to good shopping options, and an over-reliance on the need to drive everywhere.

And yet, our built environments don't favor people, they clearly favor automobiles.

The first question we seem to ask when a new construction goes up is "Where will people park?"

Perhaps a better question to ask would be "What value does this building add to the neighborhood?"

We should be demanding good building, in-keeping with the neighborhood atmosphere - building that does more than just generate more traffic congestion, building which fosters a more walkable neighborhood, provides better access to public transit, and building that incorporates environmentally sound principles such as green space, energy efficiency and a low carbon footprint.

We should be encouraged to get out and walk, or bike around the neighborhood in good weather - we'd all be healthier for it! And I'd love to see Elston Avenue or Irving Park Road car-free for one day in the summer time so we could get out and occupy our neighborhood space with people, like they do in New York!

C'mon, architects, developers and community members, let's get more good building going, for the benefit of all West Walker residents!!

Thanks!

Michelle Kaicener

greenwestwalker@gmail.com

Website of the Month : <http://www.newurbanism.org/>

News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Numbers of those in need continue to increase and fundraising is a challenge given the difficult economic environment. The Pantry is grateful for the support of everyone in our community.

Pantry Statistics

April 2009: 621 families representing 1797 individuals

April 2008: 486 families representing 1365 individuals

Hunger Walk

The Greater Chicago Food Depository 24th Annual Hunger Walk will take place on Saturday, June 20, 2009 at 9:00 AM on Chicago's beautiful Montrose Harbor. Money raised by walkers and sponsors goes directly to the Pantry's Depository account. That money is used to buy food for Pantry clients. Every \$10 donated can purchase 150 lbs. of food. The Pantry set a goal this year to collect \$10,000. Please go to the IPCFP Hunger Walk Team web page: www.chicagosfoodbank.org/goto/irvparkfoodpantry or call the pantry to learn how you can participate.

Current Food Drives:

Faith United Church of Christ, 5051 W. Belle Plaine Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60641 (June)- 312-405-9478

Little Helpers Community Services - Pets and People! (collection is ongoing) 4201 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL, 60618 - 773-539-9410

Dr. James W. (Bill) Smith, Taylor Rehab and Wellness Center (June), 4956 W. Irving Park Road, Suite 200, Chicago, IL, 60641

Shop and Share

It is very easy to support the Pantry by doing your shopping at Jewel/Osco at 6 Corners or any Jewel/Osco using the Shop and Share coupon. Three weeks this year have been dedicated to assisting the Pantry - June 22, 23 and 24 and June 29, 30 and July 1st, and July 6, 7 and 8. Jewel/Osco will donate 5% of your total purchase to the Irving Park Food Pantry. To obtain a coupon for use while shopping, visit the web at <http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.com>, call or email the pantry at 773-283-6296 or IrvPkFoodPantry@aol.com.

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ArabesqueChicago.com



Mitch
312
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Summer Comm

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays • 10 a.m.
Storytime for children
2 – 5 years old
Independence Library
3548 W. Irving Pk Rd



Mondays • 11 a.m.
Lapsit storytime for children
6 months to 2 years old
Independence Library
3548 W. Irving Pk Rd

Wednesdays • 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Chicago Park District - Volunteer
Stewardship Days. Call Bob Porter,
(312) 744.5472 for information
North Park Village Nature Center
5801 N. Pulaski Rd.

JUNE

June 12 • Dusk
Movies in the Park - True Grit (G)
Independence Park



June 13 • 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
North Mayfair Improvement Association
/ Chicago Park District - Volunteer
Stewardship Day. Call Jim Macdonald at
(773) 736-1051 for info.
Gompers Wetland - Foster & Pulaski



June 14 • 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Farmers Market
Independence Park

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



June 17 • 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Toddlers, Tunes & Turtles
Sing songs with musicians from Old Town
School of Folk Music, meet live animals,
participate in toddler-friendly nature
activities and enjoy healthy refreshments.
You're welcome to bring along a picnic
dinner. Call (312) 742-5039 for info.
Gompers Park - 4222 W. Foster Ave.

June 19 or 22 • 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Rock Your World! Explore the different
shapes, sizes and materials that make up
rocks, and discover how a fossil is made.
For children ages 3-6. Call (312) 744-5472
to register
North Park Village Nature Center
5801 N. Pulaski Rd.

June 20 • 9:00 a.m.
The Greater Chicago Food Depository 24th
Annual Hunger Walk supporting Irving Park
Food Pantry. Call 773-283-6296 to find out
how to participate.
Montrose Harbor

June 20 • 2:00 p.m.
Family Kayaking - Learn how to kayak.
Equipment is provided. Mail in registration
is required. Call (312) 742-5039 for info.
*Jackson Park (Wooded Island), Science Dr.
& Lake Shore Dr., behind the Museum of
Science & Industry*

June 22 through 24
Shop and Share for the Irving
Park Food Pantry. Jewel/
Osco donates 5% of your total
purchase to the Pantry when you
use the Shop and Share coupon.
To obtain a coupon call or email
the pantry at 773-283-6296 or
IrvPkFoodPantry@aol.com.



June 22 to Sept. 4 • 8:30 am - 3:15 pm
Summer Program - Classroom Experience
of Chicago. Program runs Monday – Friday
with before and after care available on site.
Open for children aged kindergarten to 8th
grade. Call 773-267-0072 or visit
www.parkviewlutheran.org click on school
for more info.
Park View Lutheran, 3919 N. Monticello



June 24
Summer Dance in the Park
Call 773.478.2889 for time and
dance style being taught
*Athletic Field Park – Addison &
Drake*

June 25 • 6:00 p.m.
Chicago River Family Canoe Trip
Equipment and instruction is provided. Mail
in registration is required. Call (312) 742-
5039 for info.
River Park - 5100 N. Francisco Ave.

June 26 • Dusk
Movie in the Park: *Kung Fu Panda* (PG)
*Athletic Field Park – Addison &
Drake*



June 27 • 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Chicago Park District - Volunteer
Stewardship Day at Bill Jarvis Migratory
Bird Sanctuary
For more information call Charlotte Newfeld
at (773) 327-5053.
*Lincoln Park (Addison St. & Lake Shore
Dr.)*

June 27 • 10:00 a.m. OR 2:00 pm
Chicago River Family Canoe Trip
Equipment and instruction is provided. Mail
in registration is required. Call (312) 742-
5039 for info
River Park - 5100 N. Francisco Ave.

June 27 – 28 • 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Theater Hikes - Charlotte's Web. All ages,
Free. The Children's Literature Association
named Charlotte's Web "the best American
children's book of the past 200 years."
Performances take place along a guided
walk. All the familiar enchanting characters
appear in this story about the value of
friendship. Registration required at (312)
744-5472.
North Park Village Nature Center
5801 N. Pulaski Rd.



June 28 • 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm
Farmers Market
Independence Park

June 29 through July 1
Shop and Share for the Irving
Park Food Pantry at Jewel/Osco.
To obtain a coupon call or email
the pantry at 773-283-6296 or
IrvPkFoodPantry@aol.com.



JULY

July 2 • Dusk
Movies in the Park: *Blues Brothers*
Independence Park

July 2 • 6:00 p.m.
Children's Summer Reading Program
Histories for Kids, Inc. Presents Historical
Illinois - The Lincoln Years
Independence Library
3548 W. Irving Pk Rd

July 4 • 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
4th of July Parade
Independence Park
(see page 8 for information)



July 6 - July 30 • 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Magic After-School Place, Afternoon
Summer Camp. For information or to
register call 773.426.0533
Irving Park Lutheran Church
4057 N. Harding

July 6 through 8
Shop and Share for the Irving
Park Food Pantry at Jewel/Osco.
To obtain a coupon call or email
the pantry at 773-283-6296 or
IrvPkFoodPantry@aol.com.




July 9 • 2:00 p.m.
Children's Summer Reading Program
Lynn Rymarz Presents Ask Mrs. Lincoln
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Independence Library
3548 W. Irving Pk Rd

unity Calendar

July 11 • 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 North Mayfair Improvement Association / Chicago Park District - Volunteer Stewardship Day. Call Jim Macdonald at (773) 736-1051 for information.
Gompers Wetland - Foster & Pulaski


July 12 • 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm
 Farmers Market
Independence Park




July 14 • 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

 Movin' to the Music. Pack a picnic dinner, bring a blanket, join us on the new playground and water feature, and enjoy a different genre of music. Call (773) 478-2889 for information.
Athletic Field Park – Addison & Drake


July 15
 Summer Dance in the Park
 Call (773) 478-2889 for time and dance style being taught
Athletic Field Park – Addison & Drake



July 15 • 7:00 p.m.
 Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting
 17th District Police Station
 Community Room - 4650 N. Pulaski



July 17 • Dusk
 Movies in the Park: *Hotel for Dogs* (PG)
*Athletic Field Park
 Addison & Drake*




July 20 • 7:00 p.m.
 Summer Reads for Adults
 Land of Lincoln Readers: Film Screening -America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie
*Independence Library
 3548 W. Irving Pk Rd*

July 23 • 11:00 a.m.
 Children's Summer Reading Program
 Lincoln Institute - Meet Mr. Lincoln
*Independence Library
 3548 W. Irving Pk Rd*

July 25 • 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 Chicago Park District - Volunteer Stewardship Day at Bill Jarvis Migratory Bird Sanctuary. For more information call Charlotte Newfeld at (773) 327-5053
Lincoln Park (Addison St. & Lake Shore Dr.)

July 26 • 8 a.m. OR 10:30 a.m.
 Gospel on the Green - Sunday worship in the garden. Dogs on leashes welcome. Bring blankets, sunscreen, hats
*St. John's Episcopal Church
 3857 N. Kostner*

July 26 • 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm
 Farmers Market
Independence Park




July 27 • 2:00 p.m.
 Children's Summer Reading Program
 Abraham Lincoln in Song
 REGISTRATION REQUIRED
*Independence Library
 3548 W. Irving Pk Rd*

AUGUST

August 2 • 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 GIPNA Annual Pancake Breakfast
Independence Park Bungalow


August 3
 Chicago Park District Fall 2009 Program information available for viewing online
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

August 5
 Summer Dance in the Park
 Call (773) 478-2889 for time and dance style being taught
*Athletic Field Park
 Addison & Drake*




August 8 • 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 North Mayfair Improvement Association / Chicago Park District - Volunteer Stewardship Day Call Jim Macdonald at (773) 736-1051 for information.
Gompers Wetland - Foster & Pulaski

August 9 • 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 Farmers Market
Independence Park




August 11 • 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
 Movin' to the Music
 Pack a picnic lunch, bring a blanket, join us on the new playground and water feature, and enjoy a different genre of music. Call (773) 478-2889 for information.
Athletic Field Park – Addison & Drake




August 17 • 9:00 a.m.
 Chicago Park District Fall 2009 Programs
 Online registration begins and runs through September 20
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

August 18 • 8:30 p.m.
 Movies in the Park: *Movies in the Park - El Viaje de Teo* (Spanish Film, English Subtitles) (NR)
Independence Park



August 19 • 7:00 p.m.
 Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting
 17th District Police Station
 Community Room - 4650 N. Pulaski




August 21 • Dusk
 Movies in the Park: *Mat Hot Ballroom* (PG)
Athletic Field Park – Addison & Drake



August 22
 Chicago Park District Fall 2009 Programs
 In-person registration at most parks begins


August 23 • 8:00 a.m. OR 10:30 a.m.
 Gospel on the Green - Sunday worship in the garden. Dogs on leashes welcome. Bring blankets, sunscreen, hats
*St. John's Episcopal Church
 3857 N. Kostner*

August 23 • 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 Farmers Market
Independence Park





August 27 • 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 Chicago Park District - Volunteer Stewardship Day at Bill Jarvis Migratory Bird Sanctuary. For more information call Charlotte Newfeld at (773) 327-5053
Lincoln Park (Addison St. & Lake Shore Dr.)

SEPTEMBER


September 2

 Sonic Playground
 Hear local musicians use the playground as their instruments. (Weather permitting). Call (773) 478-2889 for information.
Athletic Field Park – Addison & Drake

September 13 • 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 Farmers Market
Independence Park



September 15 • 7:30 p.m.

 WWCA General Meeting
TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!
*Latvian Community Center
 4146 N. Elston Ave.*

September 16 • 7:00 p.m.
 Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting
 17th District Police Station
 Community Room - 4650 N. Pulaski



**GET OUTSIDE!
 ENJOY THE SUMMER!
 ENJOY YOUR
 NEIGHBORHOOD!**

Women's Cancer Support Group to Form

A cancer support group is forming to serve women in the Irving Park neighborhood. The group will meet for the first time on Thursday, July 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The inspiration for the group, called Wildest Dreams Cancer Support Group for Women, came from a cancer survivor who felt frustrated by the lack of a cancer support group on the northwest side of Chicago.

The goal of the group is to provide a comfortable, caring and confidential place for women who are cancer survivors or who are currently undergoing cancer treatment. It will be an environment to share experiences, express concerns, talk about everyday life and gain support from others. From time-to-time speakers will be invited to talk about subjects such as exercise, nutrition, health & wellness. Reverend Brooke Peterson will facilitate. There is no charge to participate in the group.

The group will meet at 4112 N. Harding Ave. Subsequent meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month. For more information or any questions, contact Helen Lira at 773.406.9821.

Irving Park Carlson Ministries, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization will sponsor the group. The mission of Carlson Ministries is to serve the Irving Park community with a variety of outreach efforts, including helping those in need.

Join your Neighbors and Kick off Independence Day at Independence Park!

Annual festivities sponsored by the Independence Park Advisory Council (IPAC) and the West Walker Civic Association happen again this 4th of July at



Independence Park. Bring the whole family, as the fun runs from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Don't be late, as you'll need to line up for the bicycle parade which will kick off the festivities at 10:30 a.m. Show your American spirit by decking out your bike with patriotic decorations or by dressing up in your favorite red white and blue attire. Following the parade the Boy Scouts will hold a Flag Raising Ceremony with singing of the National Anthem. After the ceremony, games will commence with running, potato sack races and an egg toss. Free patriotic giveaways and refreshments will be provided. Come out and spend some time with your neighbors before heading out to your other Independence Day events!

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39th Ward Report



All of the wonderful events we associate with summer are just around the corner – farmers markets, summer festivals, and road construction! It’s been said that Chicago has two seasons – winter and construction. After our tough winter, we’re about to jump into construction season. Over the summer, we’ll be seeing residential and state capital projects throughout the 39th Ward. Although these projects are bound to create a few headaches, I’m sure that the end results will be worth the inconvenience.

Chicago is well known for its wonderful summer special events we always look forward to our 39th Ward events. The annual Korean Street Festival will be held on August 8-9 in the 3200-3400 blocks of Bryn Mawr. The 17th District Police host their National Night Out on August 4. Farmers Markets will continue once again at Independence Park. For more detailed information on these and other events over the summer, please sign up for my e-newsletter at www.AldermanLaurino.com

Summer also means that it’s time to replace our city stickers! On Monday, June 22, the City Clerk’s office will be selling City Vehicle Stickers and Residential Zone Parking Stickers at my 39th Ward public service office (4404 W. Lawrence) from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Finally, I’d like to recognize and thank Beth Tigue for her hard work as editor of the Wire. After a long tenure, Beth is retiring and passing her pen to a new editor. Beth, you’ll be a tough act to follow!

If you have any questions or concerns over the summer, please contact my 39th Ward Office at 773-736-5594 or Ward39@cityofchicago.org.

Sincerely, Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward

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REASSESSMENT 2009

2009 is a reassessment year for properties located in the City of Chicago. This means that the basis for your property tax is about to change.

Despite the fact that most property values have gone down in the past year, it is possible that the assessed value of your property may go up.

Many property owners do not realize that they have a right to contest unfair increases.

Every property owner must pay taxes, but these taxes should be fair. Let me review your property to make sure you are being fairly taxed.

CAPS Update

by Pam Maremont

The May CAPS meeting was standing room only and most of the issues raised this month were outside of the West Walker area. However, drug and gang activity is increasing around our neighborhood, so if you see anything suspicious call 911.

The only new crime mentioned in our neighborhood was car theft and the increase in car break-ins, including stealing catalytic converters. The auto repair shops along Elston have reported a spike in replacements over the last few months. Officers could not offer any additional information, but stressed the need for residents to call the police if they see unusual activity on the street, including people double parked for any length of time.

Statistics by type of crime in the West Walker neighborhood (April 15 — May 20, 2009):

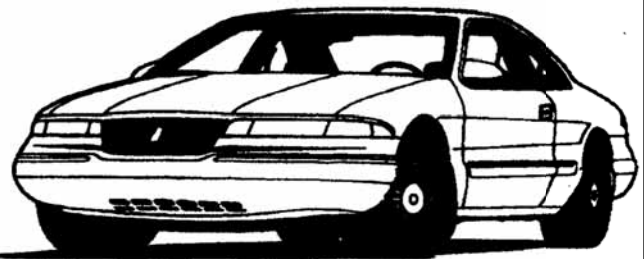
Criminal damage to vehicle	8	Motor vehicle theft	2
Burglary (unlawful entry).....	7	Offense involving children	1
Domestic battery.....	7	Deceptive practice	1
Theft \$300 and under	4	Theft purse-snatching.....	1
Non-criminal missing person	4	Theft from building.....	1
Theft \$300 and over	3	Criminal trespass.....	1
Criminal damage to property	3	Telephone threat.....	1
Assault.....	3	Armed robbery.....	1
Battery	2		

CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meetings for 2009 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 June 17.

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Neighborhood



School News

News from St. Viator

St. Viator Participates in the Celebration of the Burnham Centennial

St. Viator's 5th grade was part of the Burnham Centennial Project, with the objectives to learn

about a neighborhood of the city other than their own, and, second, to plan the future of the assigned neighborhood. Our 5th grade class was assigned Hyde Park, and it was a fun to learn about the area and make our plans for the future which included an organic community garden, green buildings, and solar-powered trolleys. The research and plans were written-up into a 30-page report and incorporated into a large map of Hyde Park. Our map will be combined with the maps from all the other participating schools to create one big tapestry map of the City of Chicago.

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. Additional rooms have been opened, but those seats are going fast. We encourage you to visit or call the School Office 773-545-2173 to schedule a private tour. Registration forms are available @ www.stviatorchicago.org.

Sister's Class Received an A+

Thank you to West Walker Community who attended our Late Nite Catechism Fundraising Event. This first-ever event for St. Viator was a wonderful success, reaching our goal to make \$10,000. Check out our school website for photos from the evening: <http://www.stviatorchicago.org/Inc.htm>

For more information on St. Viator, please visit www.stviatorchicago.org.

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