

WEST WALKER WIRE

DECEMBER 2009

www.westwalker.org

Celebrate the Season with Your Neighbors at West Walker's Holiday Party

THE WEST WALKER holiday party will be held December 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Latvian Hall. Enjoy the musical stylings of your neighbors as they tickle the ivories, fiddle a fiddle, strum a guitar, or belt out a holiday ballad. Please bring some holiday treats to share. This is a great chance to visit with your neighbors, sing a few tunes, and spread holiday cheer!

Fine Wine Party Raises Funds for Bungalow

by Lynda Olander

THE COMMUNITY turned out in force on November 7 for the fourth annual Fine Wine & Cheese Party, a fundraiser for the Independence Park Bungalow Renovation Project.

Entertainment was provided by **Dan "The Piano Man" Gilloghly** and chanteuse **Dante Ingram**, both neighborhood residents. Local designer **David Dumo** donated services and

materials to create an atmospheric and stylish venue. This year the party featured wines of the Cotes du Rhone region of France, generously donated

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State Rep. Deb Mell presents a \$100,000 check for the Bungalow Renovation Project to IPBRP president Lynda Olander while Alderman Colon (35th) and Alderman Laurino (39th) look on.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 12 • 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
West Walker Holiday Art Invitational
Sale of Handmade Art & Crafts
Irving Park Lutheran Church gym
4057 N. Harding Ave.

December 13 • 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Christmas Cookie Walk
St. Edward School, Buckley Hall
4343 W. Sunnyside Ave.

December 13 • 3 p.m.
Sing-Along Messiah
Irving Park Lutheran Church
4100 N. Harding Ave.

December 13 • 1-3 p.m.
Skate with Santa
St. Viator Elementary School Gym
3644 N. Kedvale

December 14 • 7 p.m.
Adult Book Discussion, "The Wild Trees"
Independence Park Branch Library
3548 W. Irving Park Road

December 15 • 7:30 p.m.
WWCA General Meeting and
Holiday Party
Latvian Community Center
4146 N. Elston Ave.

December 16 • 7 p.m.
Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting
17 District Police Station Community Room
4650 N. Pulaski Road

December 19 • 6-9 p.m.
Winter Solstice Festival
North Park Village Nature Center
5801 N. Pulaski Road

January 4
Chicago Park District Winter 2010
Programs begin

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

Dear Neighbor,

WE'LL BE SERVING UP holiday cheer and family fun at West Walker's annual holiday party on Tuesday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Latvian Hall, 4146 N. Elston. There will be refreshments, music, and treats for the kids. Join us for a short meeting followed by the holiday party. Youth and adult performers are welcome to be part of the fun and entertainment. If you or your children would like to perform, please e-mail me at valbarry@sbcglobal.net with the performer's name, title of the song/piece, and length of the song. Please keep songs to two minutes or less.

If you've always wanted to attend a West Walker meeting, but can't get away because of the kids, here's your chance! The business portion of the December 15 meeting will be short, and afterward there will be lots of family friendly holiday cheer! So let the kids stay up a little later and come on by.

On another note, please check on your neighbors during the cold days of winter. Issues of heat and electricity are vitally important as the weather gets cold.

Finally, the West Walker Board wishes you and your family a joyful celebration this holiday, and peace in the New Year.

Carol Barry, Secretary

(continued from page 1)

by **Tim Olander** and **Andrew Mouton**. The beautiful spread of cheese was donated by Whole Foods-Sauganash.

More than 200 people attended. **State Rep. Deb Mell** presented a \$100,000 check for the Project to IPBRP president **Lynda Olander**.

The event raised \$14,400. In 2005 the community committed to raising \$200,000 for this project. With the addition of funds raised at this event and the award from the state, the total stands at \$161,000.



Please visit www.greenbungalowproject.org for the latest on the Project.



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 97 years of service to the West Walker Community

2009-2010 OFFICERS

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Vice President	Davor Engel
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EDITOR

Anne Marie O'Kelley

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 Julie Capps at Julie.capps@sothebysrealty.com.



39th Ward Report



Dear Friends:

In the City Council, our focus in the past few months has been the budget. To say that this has been the most challenging budget since I've become alderman would be an understatement. It appears that the city will institute more city shutdown days and reduced service days in 2010. It has been quite a struggle, but I'm determined that the 39th Ward will continue to receive and provide the level of services that our constituents have come to expect.

Although we've had relatively mild fall weather, we know that winter weather is fast approaching. One of the surest signs of winter in Chicago is the return of the city's annual snow-related parking restrictions.

On Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at 3 a.m., Chicago

reactivates its Winter Overnight Parking restrictions for the most critical arterial streets. Signs for this seasonal restriction are permanently posted. Cars parked on critical arterial streets with a posted seasonal overnight restriction will be ticketed and towed between the hours of 3 a.m. and 7 a.m., whether or not there is snow on the ground. This restriction is in effect until April 1.

A separate seasonal parking ban may be activated during a heavy snow. Please remember not to park along designated "Snow Routes" when two or more inches of snow have fallen.

I hope you have the opportunity to take advantage of all that Chicago offers during the holidays. Whether taking in the lights on Michigan Avenue, caroling at Millennium Park, or strolling through Christkindlmarket at Daley Plaza, there is no place like Chicago, especially this time of year. My staff and I send best wishes to everyone in the West Walker community for a happy holiday season.

Sincerely, Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward

Kids Dance Says Thank You for Its First Five Years

KIDS DANCE has been a West Walker neighbor bringing you the love of dance, acting, and music for the past five years. At the start of its sixth year, Kids Dance sends out a big thank you to the community for its support!

To culminate its fifth year, Kids Dance will hold a dance recital on Thursday, December 17 at 7 p.m. at the Portage Theater at 4050 N. Milwaukee. Tickets are only \$3.

Look for additional upcoming events at www.kidsdancechicago.com. You can save 10 percent on all dance lesson packages through January 5.

Kids Dance wishes everyone a safe and fun holiday season and a happy New Year!

Phone: 773-539-1200

Fax: 773-539-1482



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www.gardenchicago.com

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312.952.9909 | julie.capps@sothebysrealty.com

CAPS Report

by Margaret McIntyre

AT THE NOVEMBER meeting, long-time Beat 1723 CAPS facilitator Florence Stoller announced her resignation. She was thanked by those present for her many years of service to the community. Martha Hack, her replacement, was introduced.

This month's meeting was relatively quiet. Officers discussed that while it may seem like there has been increased drug activity in the area over the past months, there haven't been any spikes. It does appear that offenders have become more brazen and, therefore, easier to catch.

New issues raised:

- Gang activity was reported in the 4100 block of Harding and in the parking lot of Elston/Springfield. Officers will increase patrolling in the area.
- A possible troubled building in the 4200 block of Pulaski. Officers indicated they would check into the situation.

Updates on old issues:

- There were previous reports of drug activity in the rear of 4180 N. Elston. Police conducted surveillance. No drug activity was observed. There were three arrests for drinking.
- Residents had indicated prostitution was occurring on the

3500 block of Montrose. Police conducted surveillance. Four arrests were made, none for prostitution.

Statistics by type of crime in the West Walker neighborhood (Oct. 21 - Nov. 18, 2009):

Criminal damage to vehicle	6
Battery	6
Theft (\$300 & under)	3
Motor vehicle theft (automobile)	2
Burglary (attempted forcible entry)	1
Criminal damage to vehicle	1
Non-criminal lost property	1
Criminal damage (criminal defacement)	1
Assault (simple)	1
Theft (over \$300)	1
Theft (retail)	1
Robbery (vehicular hijacking)	1
Assault	2
Kidnapping	1

CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meetings for 2009 for our beat are held at the 17th District Police Station in the Community Room, 4650 N. Pulaski. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. monthly on the third Wednesday and typically last one hour. The next meeting is December 16.

SALE: 20% OFF ALL BIBLES, NOV. 27-DEC. 12

-THE BIBLE-

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"All Scripture is God-breathed"

2 Timothy chapter 3 verse 15



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Happy Holidays and a Healthy (and Green) New Year!

THIS HAS BEEN one for the books, hasn't it? Too much rain this spring and fall, a cool summer, and a shortage of pumpkin pie filling. Anyway, I hope you managed to get your pumpkin pie this year.

The end of the year is always a good time to look back in review and acknowledge some successes.



I think our biggest success was getting Blue Carts in our neighborhood. I hope they are working out for you. We are saving lots of recyclables from going to the landfill.

Also, we've given out 60 weatherization kits around the neighborhood. A big "thank you" from me to the volunteers: **Pat Ruch,**

Sandhya Ehle, Laura Ell, and Betsy Minor. Couldn't have done it without you! I hope we've saved folks a little on their energy bills this year.

Of course, the Three Brothers Community Garden has been a great success too. There's been much discussion about urban agriculture in the news of late, and we need much more of that.

Personally, I think I've managed to find a way to stop the squirrels getting my tomatoes. I've set up a system where I can use netting over a frame to protect the produce, while allowing the pollinators to get through. Thanks to the folks at Crafty Beaver for helping me work that out. Maybe I'll set up a more durable structure next year.

I've also been using bird netting on my fruit trees. While the squirrels still get a few fruits, at least I get some too. I also managed to make home-grown blackcurrant-cherry preserve, learned to cook Swiss Chard, and make dandelion wine.

Thanks, everyone, for supporting green projects in the neighborhood this year, and all the best for 2010. See you in the New Year!

by *Michelle Kaicener*
greenwestwalker@gmail.com

Website of the month: www.urbanhabitatchicago.org/



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WWCA Members

Thanks for renewing or becoming members of WWCA! A list of those neighbors who have joined or renewed from November 1 through November 29, 2009 appears below.

Rob and Pam Austin

Anne Puotinen and Yazid Ebeid

Peter and Carla Forster

Peg Klimek

Renate Lux

Susan Gregoir and Jame Medd

Sarah Murry

Michelle Niles and Wayne Steger

Thillens (business)

Jayne and Julia Tipre

WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yearly Membership Dues: Effective September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010

Check one:

FAMILY \$10

BUSINESS \$15

SENIOR \$5

NAME: _____

(Please print. Write your name as you would like it to appear in the West Walker Wire.)

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Please note your e-mail 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: John Minor, 4326 N. Hamlin Ave., Chicago, IL 60618

Food Pantry Gears up for Toy, Holiday Programs

IN DECEMBER, the Irving Park Community Food Pantry will hold two special distributions to our clients, who continue to grow in number. Through October, the number of households receiving food has grown 23 percent from last year.

The first is the holiday food distribution on December 16, with the goal of providing each household with all the ingredients for a full holiday dinner. To do so, we are in need of a variety of specific non-perishable food items, particularly stuffing mixes, instant mashed potatoes, and canned pie fillings, cranberry sauce, vegetables, soup, and yams.

The second is our annual toy distribution. This year, we expect to distribute toys and games to almost 400 children, up to 12 years old. These children face the prospect of having no new toy to make their holidays brighter. Please participate by donating a new toy or game.

We're also accepting donations of gloves, hats, and scarves to distribute to those in need. Unfortunately, we cannot accept other clothing donations due to space restraints.

HOW TO HELP: Bring your holiday food, toy, or cold-weather donations to Irving Park Methodist Church's Grace Street entrance during regular business hours. Monetary donations can be sent to us at 3802 N. Keeler Ave., Chicago IL 60641 or via our secure website at www.irvingparkfoodpantry.com.

THANKS TO ALL: In this season, we want to give special thanks to everyone in the West Walker neighborhood who has supported our efforts. Without your help, many in our community would have a more difficult time as they look for work and try to make ends meet.

Bilingual volunteers are needed for regular distribution days and the Express Stamps program to assist with interviewing Spanish-speaking clients. Please call the Pantry at 312.307.8458 and ask for Kate Roche.

GRANTS: The Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) awarded a grant to the Pantry for technology upgrades and additional dollars in our Depository account. This will be especially valuable in aiding our Express Food Stamps/SNAP program. The GCFD recently honored the SNAP Volunteer Team, of which our volunteers are members, with the GCFD Distinguished Volunteer Group Award.



St. Edward School News

The annual St. Edward Christmas Cookie Walk will be held in Buckley Hall at 4343 W. Sunnyside Ave. on Sunday,

December 13 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come pick up some home-baked treats and browse the various gifts perfect for Christmas!

The student Christmas program will be held on Wednesday, December 16 in the school gym (Buckley Hall) at 7 p.m. The sounds of the junior and senior orchestra, together with the student singers and choir, will put you in the Christmas spirit!


Top Performers in Academic Events

Congratulations to the Quiz Bowl team, which represented St. Edward at Notre Dame High School for Boys in October. Our team won first place over 17 teams! Congratulations to team members Killian White, Ryan Greene, Anna Gianni, Caroline Asplund, Luis Rentas, Daniel Paredas, Patrick Alicante, and Michael Prostran.

The team of Killian White, Anna Gianni, Caroline Asplund, Michael Prostran, Ryan Green, and Patrick

Alicante competed at St. Ignatius High School along with 22 other schools. We are very proud to say that St. Edward took first place at that event!

Kudos also goes to our eighth-grade girls math team, which took first place at Notre Dame High School for Girls on Saturday, October 24. This team included Caroline Asplund, Selena D'Agostino, Dana Carrao, Anna Gianni, Jacqueline Stasinis, Sophia Lamperis, and Jamie Wright. Individual trophies were also awarded to Anna Gianni, who won sixth place, and Sophia Lamperis, who took fourth place.



Christmas Caroling

Come and sing for your neighbors to help your neighbors!

Tuesday, December 22
7:00 p.m.

*Meet at the Irving Park Lutheran Church
3938 W. Belle Plaine Avenue*

We will be caroling in the West Walker Neighborhood and collecting donations for Hands to Help Ministries which aids homeless people and others in crisis.

After caroling we will meet at the church for hot drinks and Christmas cookies.



Friends for Joe Laiacona
Illinois State Representative: District 40

4205 N. Avers Avenue
Chicago, IL 60618



Phone 312-206-8793
Joe@Joe4Forty.org

Joe Laiacona
www.FriendsforJoeLaiacona.org

Margaret Laurino
Alderman
39th Ward

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