

WEST WALKER WIRE

OCTOBER 2010

www.westwalker.org

Mark Your Calendar for the WWCA's Halloween Party and Fall Festival!

by Beth Tidmarsh

JOIN US HALLOWEEN WEEKEND for some spooky and silly neighborhood fun! West Walker Civic Association's Halloween Party and Fall Festival will take place Saturday, October 30 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym on the corner of Harding and Belle Plaine.



This free event will kick off with crafts, games, music, and refreshments in the gym. At 11:30 we'll draw for great prizes and wrap up with a costume parade for all ages.

A drawing for exciting prizes will be held. Tickets are \$1 each. Prizes include: tickets to Second City donated by NBC5; a Julie Helenius children's music CD and class; a Halloween gift basket courtesy of Dorie Westmeyer-Charles Rutenberg Realty; and local restaurant gift certificates.

A donation of canned food for the Irving Park Community Food Pantry would be appreciated. Join your neighbors as we celebrate fall in Chicago! Questions or want to help out? Contact Beth Tidmarsh at btidmarsh@gmail.com. Hope to see you Saturday morning Oct. 30!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

October 2 through December 4 • during library hours

Arty Synthesis Art Exhibit
Independence Park Branch Library
3548 W. Irving Park Road

October 16-17 • 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fall Fest 2010
Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison

October 19 • 7 p.m. (PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME)

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

October 19 • 7 p.m.

Burglary Prevention Workshop
KJBS Temple, 3701 W. Devon

October 20 • 7 p.m.

Beat 1723 CAPS meeting
17th Dist. Police Station Community Room
4650 N. Pulaski Road

October 22 • 12-1:30 p.m.

Career Transition Team
St. John's Episcopal Church
3857 N. Kostner

October 30 • 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

West Walker Civic Association
Halloween Party & Fall Festival
Irving Park Lutheran Church gym
4057 N. Harding Ave.

November 6 • 5-8 p.m.

Independence Park Bungalow
Renovation Project
Fine Wine & Cheese Party
Independence Park Fieldhouse

November 17 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Department of Health Free Flu Shots
Alderman Laurino's 39th Ward Office
4404 W. Lawrence Ave.

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

WITHIN THE WIRE...

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' Dear Neighbor,

EVER GET SO WORKED UP about an issue that you wanted to write your Congressman? Save the stamp and come to the October 19 West Walker Civic Association meeting at the Chicago Latvian Community Center at 4146 N. Elston Avenue. Don't forget that meetings now start at 7 p.m.

Mike Quigley is our congressman, representing the 5th Illinois District in Washington, DC. Although we can't guarantee Congressman Quigley will appear in person (but it is possible), his office will be definitely represented through a member of his district office staff, Bridget Geraghty.

Mike Quigley was elected to Congress to represent Illinois' 5th District in April 2009. Before that, he served as a Cook County commissioner for more than 20 years. During his time on the Cook County Board of Commissioners, Quigley sponsored every piece of major environmental legislation adopted by Cook County government and still regularly participates in local clean-up and restoration efforts, earning him awards from the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club. The *Chicago Reader* has said he is "arguably the greenest elected official in Chicago." He has lived in the Lakeview neighborhood for 30 years.

Congressman Quigley asked for the opportunity to present our neighbors with an update of his activities in Congress, to highlight areas of success and concern, and to give us the opportunity to provide feedback so that he can address the concerns of our neighborhood and the entire district. Congressman Quigley would like to hear your questions and suggestions.

I'd like to encourage everyone to come and be an active participant in our representative government. If you would like to learn firsthand how the concerns of West Walker get heard in Washington, DC, please attend the October meeting. Who knows, you might even meet a congressman. (A message from Congressman Quigley appears below.)

Mike Webber, President, West Walker Civic Association

LAST YEAR when I was elected to represent the people of the 5th District, I vowed to stop business as usual in Washington. To this end, in July 2009 I introduced H.R. 3427, the State Ethics Law Protection Act (SELPA). After months of work, this legislation passed through the House of Representatives on September 29.

SELPA will allow states that enact anti-pay-to-pay laws, like Illinois, to continue receiving federal funds from the Federal Highway Administration. Pay-to-play is the practice of trading campaign contributions for lucrative government contracts, a practice that hurts Illinois taxpayers and limits the competitive bidding process. SELPA clarifies that anti-pay-to-play laws are consistent with federal contracting requirements, ensuring future projects will be chosen based on merit rather than political connections and favors.

Please feel free to call my office at 773.267.5926 if you have any questions or need assistance. It is a pleasure serving you in the United States Congress.

Mike Quigley, Member of Congress

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 98 years of service to the West Walker Community

2010-2011 OFFICERS

President Mike Webber
539-8346

Vice President Davor Engel

Secretary Carol Barry
478-5696

Treasurer John Minor

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Dorie Westmeyer

CAPS COORDINATOR

Jane Nagle

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Glenda Beigeske
Shannon Bunting
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Patti Freko
Connie Heminover
Peg Klimek
Pat & Maura McKee
John & Betsy Minor
Mark Pascale
Tricia Ramirez & Mike Hawlitzky
Melanie Reschke
Pat & Marianne Turk

EDITOR

Anne Marie O'Kelley

Send crime concerns to **Nicole Price**
at crimealerts@westwalker.org.

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. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for space and content.

For information on advertising, please contact Shannan Bunting at WWWire@solsticepr.com

WWCA General Meeting Minutes

From September 21, 2010

The meeting opened at 7:11 p.m. Board members Dorie Westmeyer, Mike Webber, Davor Engel, and Carol Barry were present.

The speaker was Dr. Richard Tarabey from Swedish Covenant Hospital. He spoke about sleep apnea, a common sleep disorder of one or more pauses in breathing or shallow breaths during sleep. Breathing pauses can last from a few seconds to a few minutes. Interrupted sleep can cause many problems including high blood pressure, cardiac problems, memory problems, increased insulin resistance, and workplace accidents.

Adults need at least six hours of sleep and teenagers need even more. Nutrition is very important for sleep and heart health. Heart disease soared in the past century because of sedentary lifestyles and heavily processed foods.

For a presentation to junior high school or high school students on sleep, nutrition, and a healthy lifestyle, contact Sarah Springer at sspringer@schosp.org.

Treasurer's report: May meeting minutes as presented in the June issue of the *Wire* were approved. Financial activity over the summer was limited. Our starting balance for 2010-2011 is \$1,677.32.

President's report: We need a courier. Jane Nagle and John Minor will attend CAPS meetings. Next CAPS meeting will be October 20 at 7 p.m.

There will be another rollout of weatherization materials. Our green West Walker friend, Michelle Kaicener, will be attending a workshop and reporting in the *Wire* on what steps to take to get a weatherization kit.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

You can now pay your WWCA dues—with either PayPal or a credit card—at the West Walker website (www.westwalker.org)!

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Thursday

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CAPS Report

from September 15, 2010

by Jane Nagle, CAPS Coordinator

Specific Issues Discussed:

- Attendees reported loud parties at a particular residence in the 4100 block of North Central Park.
- On September 12, on the 4100 block of North Lawndale, it was reported that gunshots were fired. Residents suspected gang and drug activity.
- On September 12, on the 4100 block of North Central Park, it was reported that more gunshots were fired.

Statistics by type of crime in the West Walker neighborhood (August 18 - September 15):

Theft (\$300 and under)	3
Theft (over \$300)	2
Battery - Aggravated	1
Battery - Domestic Battery Simple	4
Battery - Simple	1
Burglary (forcible entry)	3
Burglary (unlawful entry)	2
Assault - Simple	1
Criminal damage to vehicle	4
Non-criminal lost property	2
Criminal damage (criminal defacement)	1
Criminal damage to property	3
Criminal trespass to land	1
Deceptive practice - Illegal use of cash card	1
Motor vehicle theft (automobile)	2
Robbery (armed - other dangerous weapon)	1
Telephone threat	2

The 17th District hosted a Burglary Prevention Workshop on August 19 featuring a panel of six convicted burglars, currently serving varying sentences, who shared their expertise in the crime of burglary. Kathy Bedrio from the Sauganash Park Community Board was kind enough to take minutes of the presentation. Please visit the West

Walker website at www.westwalker.org/pdf/burglary.pdf for information on how you can strengthen the security of your home. There will another Burglary Prevention Workshop on October 19 at 7 p.m. at KJBS Temple, 3701 W. Devon (free parking at Lawndale and Devon).

CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meetings for 2010 for our beat are held at the 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski, in the Community Room. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. monthly on the third Wednesday of the month and typically last one hour. The next meeting is Wednesday, October 20.

As always, call 911 to report suspicious activity or individuals in your neighborhood and provide a detailed physical description of the individuals involved in any incident, including clothing, shoes, and vehicle descriptions. Please visit the West Walker website at www.westwalker.org/pdf/narcotics.pdf to see the types of information helpful to the police in finding suspects involved in suspicious activity. It is likely that not all information can be completed for each situation, but the more information that can be provided to police, the better they will be able to handle the situation.

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39th Ward Report



Dear Neighbors,

IF YOU OR SOMEONE you know is having trouble making mortgage payments or getting a loan modification, our office can help. We can connect you with the Northwest Side Housing Center that specializes in offering free help for struggling

homeowners. Please call the 39th Ward Office for more information.

Thai Town Center, the proposed development for the old 17th District Police Station, is moving forward. It was unanimously approved by the city's Community Development Commission (CDC) on September 14 and will continue through the City Council legislative process. Many thanks to President Mike Webber for taking the time

to attend the hearing and testifying on WWCA's behalf.

The Chicago Board of Elections will be conducting early voting October 12 through 28 for the November 2 general election. The 39th Ward has two locations for early voting: North Park Village, 5801 N. Pulaski, will be open Monday-Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. Saint Louis, Building B, Room 153, will be open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. through 5 p.m.

Save the date: The city's Department of Health will be conducting its free annual flu shots on Wednesday, November 17 in my Ward office from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If you need additional information about these or any other projects, please feel free to contact my 39th Ward Office at 773.736.5594 or Ward39@cityofchicago.org.

Sincerely, Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward

Are You Looking for a Job?

JOIN THE Career Transition Team, a support group for those searching for work. We meet from 12 to 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of every month at St. John's Episcopal Church (3857 N. Kostner, enter through the green door on Byron).

We share resources and advice, practice interview skills and resume tips, and support each other through the

ups and downs of this economy. Lunch is provided. The meeting begins and ends with prayer, though participation is not required, and persons of any or no religious tradition are welcome to attend.

The next meeting is Friday, October 22. The following meeting is Friday, November 26.

For more information please contact Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer at 773.725.9026.

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We can help you reach your milestones and all the mile-pebbles



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WWCA Members

Thanks for renewing or becoming members of WWCA! A list of those neighbors who have joined or renewed since June 7, 2010 appears below.

Mary & Dan Bryns
Derek Clark
Joe & Elba Dankowski
Pat & Bob Eisenhart

Farmers Market Garden Center
Wayne & Martha Johnson
Margaret Klimek
Liz & Steve Mills

John & Betsy Minor
Lorna & Bill Mulliken
Lynda & Tim Olander
Jeff & Linda Tshura

WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yearly Membership Dues: Effective May 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011

Check one: FAMILY \$15 BUSINESS \$20 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
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Fall and Winter Preparation

by Michelle Kaicener, greenwestwalker@gmail.com

WHAT A DIFFERENCE a month makes! The weather has cooled off, and the nights are falling below 55 degrees. It's nearly time to bring in the tropical plants you want to save for next year.

I over-winter figs, bananas, oranges, lemons, and limes in their containers. Meyer lemon trees even flower and bear fruit indoors, and the flowers smell wonderful—something to liven up the house during the grey months.

My thoughts are already turning to weatherization. It's time to get out the caulk, the weather-stripping, and the plastic window sheets. They can really add a good insulating layer to leaky windows.

Time to walk around your house and do your checklist. Check your furnace, and replace the filter if necessary. Think about energy-saving window blinds or drapes.

There are some interesting and innovative solar solutions out there, if you are willing to try something new. I bought a roll of solar reflective fabric I'm going to try on my windows—promises to keep heat in and cold out!

In September I attended the rollout workshop for the free, low-cost weatherization kits. The kits are in very limited supply, so we don't know yet if everyone who requests them will get them, but I will be placing my request for our neighborhood this week.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with the training and distribution, please let me know. If you'd like a kit, please also let me know. If we get them, I'd expect availability to be around November.

Website of the month: <http://www.energybuilder.com/weatherize.htm>

News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

School-Supply Distribution a Success

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry thanks everyone who contributed to our Back-to-School distribution. Almost 400 children received a good selection of paper, notebooks, pencils, markers, and other supplies.

Nutrition Classes Begin: The Pantry's fall series of nutrition classes began October 6. Conducted by Alicia Theofanis of the University of Illinois Extension Services, the classes teach clients how to create nutritious and tasty meals especially focused on the produce, canned goods, and other foods they receive in their three- to five-day distribution from the Pantry.

Laptop Donation Speeds Link Cards: The Pantry will be receiving a laptop computer from the Greater Chicago Food Depository that will help qualify clients for instant acceptance for Express Stamps and an Illinois Link card. The Pantry is the only location in Cook County where those who qualify via online application can receive immediate approval and receive their Link card within a few days. To date, more than 100 clients have received their Link cards through the Pantry.

New Toy Donations Needed: The Pantry is collecting new children's toys for its annual holiday distribution. Please bring donations to the Grace Street entrance (3801 N. Keeler) during regular business hours.

We Would Like to Thank the Following:

Three Brothers Garden and its volunteers for the fresh, organic produce that they planted and harvested for the Pantry's weekly distributions.

Einstein's Matching Grants Fund, which contributed \$250 from its national \$1 Million Giveaway Challenge. The funds will be used to purchase food for the annual holiday distributions.

Dan Irizarry for helping to set up and troubleshoot our new computer equipment.

Rent-A-Center at 3039 N. Pulaski Road for conducting a food drive during September. If your group would be interested in holding a food drive, please contact John Psiharis at info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org.

August Totals: The Pantry served 1,624 people in 588 households in August. We added 54 new households with 154 people during the month. We appreciate your support through monetary and food donations.

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News and Events from Carlson Community Services



Irving Park Carlson Ministries, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, serves the Irving Park community with a variety of outreach efforts.

Irving Park Carlson Ministries, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, serves the Irving Park community with a variety of outreach efforts.

West Walker Holiday Art Invitational to be Held November 27

IF YOU'RE LOOKING for a holiday shopping destination Thanksgiving weekend, look no further than your own back yard! The Second Annual West Walker Holiday Art Invitational will be held Saturday, November 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym, 4057 N. Harding.

Twenty artists will be selling handmade jewelry, ceramics, recycled textiles, ornaments, screen-printed linen soft goods, art books, photography, letterpress cards, paintings, handmade stuffed, and papier mache birds and dolls. The sale will also feature a holiday hair style station, crafts for kids, and lunch provided by a local restaurant.

Begun in 2008 with a small sale by West Walker artist Sarah Steedman, a larger sale featuring 15 artists was held at the IPLC church gym in 2009. Hundreds of shop-



Shoppers found a variety of one-of-a-kind, handmade items at the 2009 West Walker Holiday Art Invitational.

pers stopped in to purchase one-of-a-kind items, take part in the kids' crafts room, listen to music, and enjoy lunch. The Holiday Art Invitational is a fundraiser for the Magic After-School Place (MAP) and the Three Brothers Community Garden. Proceeds from table sales and a drawing featuring the works of participating artists will go to support these programs.

If you'd like to be considered for the West Walker Holiday Art Invitational, contact Sarah Steedman at westwalkerart-fair@sbcglobal.net or 773.539.1716. The deadline to apply is October 23. For more information about Carlson Community Services, visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org.

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West Walker Hits the Links

by Kevin Barry

THIS YEAR'S West Walker Cup, the sixth annual, at the Wilmette Golf Club took on mythical proportions when a calm Saturday morning was banished to the lake as soon as the 16 players approached the first tee. Clouds gathered, thunder rumbled, but the young hopefuls of West Walker marched on. Strong winds nudged beautiful, arcing shots into deep sand traps. Dark skies and fallen leaves obscured distant drives, resulting in lost balls and extra strokes. Still, it would take storm sirens to lure the men back to the clubhouse. Incredibly, several golfers had yet to bogey.

As soon as the puddles cleared from the greens, players charged back onto the course, looking nothing like the friendly neighbors that hunkered together in the clubhouse. Strong winds continued throughout the event. Tournament veteran Mel Westmeyer said it was one of the most challenging Cups he could remember (at least he probably would have said it if asked for a comment).

Like Odysseus, a West Walker champion may simply feel



Participants in the sixth annual West Walker Cup at the Wilmette Golf Club size up the competition.

lucky to have survived the perilous journey. For some past champions, the trophy became a torturous mistress, toying with their doubts and fears for 365 days as the cup sparkled silently on their mantles. Such pressure caused more than one West Walker winner to relinquish the cup without a defense. This year's champion with a scintillating score of 78, Steve Rasmussen, swears that he will return to face all challengers next year.

Though Avers and Springfield were well represented, Harding retains its iron grip on the trophy. Like Texas football and Dominican baseball, Harding golf is played on a higher plain. Nevertheless, the rest of West Walker continues to hope for deliverance. Who will lead us out of Harding's shadow?

Special thanks to Pat McKee and Mark Lira for showering the field with prizes from Verizon, NBC, and Paddy Mac's and to Kevin Barry for the organization and coordination of the event. Also, thanks to all of the players who see value in hanging out with neighbors for an afternoon. If you would like to be included in next year's West Walker Cup, please send an e-mail to valbarry@sbcglobal.net.



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St. Edward School News and Events

The 2010-2011 school year marks St. Edward's hundredth year! We will be celebrating our 100th

anniversary throughout the year in various ways. We also have a new pastor, Father Michael Cronin, who will be installed by Bishop Manz at mass on October 10.

We again have a Title I teacher on our faculty roster. This teacher focuses on helping students who need additional support in reading and math. The teacher will be paid for through State of Illinois education funds.

School Activities

St. Edward is going green and encouraging students to help out. We will be sponsoring six "walk or bike" to school days this year. The first took place on September 8; other dates planned are October 6, November 10, March 9, April 13, and May 11.

The annual "Chalk Walk" school walk-a-thon was held on Friday, October 8. Students walked to raise money

for the school. The walk was conducted throughout the Mayfair and Old Irving Park neighborhoods.

For more information, call the school at 773.736.9133.

CICS-Irving Park School News

New Website

Please visit our new website at www.cicsirvingpark.org. We will post school and community news here, provide contact information for faculty members, and also provide links to other educational sites.

A Day Made Better

Congratulations to Ms. Anna Lam, one of our CICS-IP teachers. She has been selected to receive a gift of classroom supplies and resources by Adopt-a-Classroom and Office Max. This is part of a nationwide event called "A Day Made Better," which highlights the challenges of teachers and garners community support for the schools.

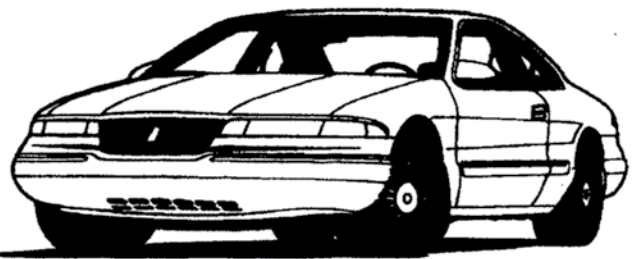
Get Motivated!

On November 8, a presentation will be made by the "Yes, You Can!" motivational speakers. They will present a program to our students about overcoming adversities and succeeding in life.

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Indy Park Farmers Market Wraps up Its 2010 Season

THE LAST MARKET of this season was October 10 with still lots of good things to eat—cooler season vegetables and fruits, all those fabulous French, Polish, and organic baked goods, honey, olives, and much more.

The bluegrass musicians were a bonus treat all season long. The Children’s Craft Classes were also popular—the kids made everything from copper jewelry, bookmarks, paper pirate hats, Hawaiian leis, and even an animation flip book.

Nursing students gave free blood pressure tests, computers/accessories were recycled, yoga was taught, belly dancers and actors entertained, the Bicycle Ambassadors gave riding tips, and local politicians came to listen to their constituents.

The Farmers Market is sponsored by GIPNA, the Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association, and entirely run by volunteers. A great big “thank you” to all the loyal shoppers, vendors, and volunteers who made the market successful. See everyone at the first market next June, the seventh year for the Independence Park Farmers Market.

photos by Kevin O’Kelley



West Walker Civic Association Annual



Halloween Party and Fall Festival

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

IRVING PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH GYM
4057 N. HARDING (BELLE PLAINE AND HARDING)

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*DONATION OF CANNED GOODS FOR THE
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