

WEST WALKER WIRE

DECEMBER 2010

www.westwalker.org

New WWCA Holiday Party Plans!

COME OUT on December 18 and join your West Walker neighbors for a kid-friendly event. Although the surveys are still coming in, people are saying that they would like more opportunities to meet neighbors and bring the kids along, much like the very popular Halloween Party and Fall Festival, which has thrived through the efforts of many neighbors.



On December 18, we will host a Holiday Party at the Tapestry Center Cafe, located at 3824 W. Irving Park Road, from 10 a.m. to noon. We will provide coffee and kid-friendly drinks, along with holiday snacks. Kids can make a special ornament with arts and crafts supplies.

Please bring a dozen or two homemade cookies for a cookie exchange. It is always fun to see (and eat!) something new. It's also a great opportunity to get the kids involved, even if it's just measuring and mixing. Remember, if you don't bring cookies, you won't be able to take any home!

We also encourage everyone to bring donations of non-perishable food for the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. This time of year, the Pantry's resources are stretched, and a little extra help can go a long way to help less fortunate families to have a better Christmas and New Year.

So, get out of the house and come join your neighbors at West Walker's new Holiday Party!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 12 • 2 p.m.

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee
An Octave Above Free Holiday Concert
Irving Park Lutheran Church
4100 N. Harding

December 15 • 7 p.m.

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

December 17 • 6-8:30 p.m.

Parents' Night Out (for kids ages 6-12)
Kilbourn Park & Organic Greenhouse
3501 N. Kilbourn Ave.

December 18 • 10 a.m to noon

NEW HOLIDAY VENUE:
WWCA Holiday Party
Tapestry Center Cafe
3824 W. Irving Park Road

December 18 • 6-9 p.m.

Winter Solstice Festival
North Park Village Nature Center
5801 N. Pulaski Road

December 18 • 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Teens in Toyland Gift Drive
Bank of America Cinema's Classic Film Series featuring *Babes in Toyland*
Bank of America Auditorium
4901 W. Irving Park Road, 2nd Floor

January 3

Chicago Park District Winter 2011 Programs begin

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

WITHIN THE WIRE...

- 2 Dear Neighbor • New Treasurer and Wire Editor Needed
- 3 WWCA Special Meeting Minutes
- 4 CAPS Report
- 5 39th Ward Report
- 6 WWCA Members
- 7 News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry
• Building Community
- 8 Scene at the West Walker Holiday Art Fair
- 9 Goodbye, Mrs. Dunne
- 10 Neighborhood School News
- 11 WWCA Survey

Dear Neighbor,

I'D LIKE TO THANK everyone who came to our special meeting on November 16, 2010 to review the Elston project proposal, as well as those who were unable to attend but have forwarded their comments. I'd like that process to continue. Included in this addition of the *Wire* are minutes from that meeting. Also, several plans that were reviewed at the meeting have been posted on the West Walker website for review. I invite anyone who wishes to do so to review all these materials and forward your comments to me at webber.wwca@gmail.com. You can also use the e-mail link on the West Walker website, or my phone number is included in the *Wire* masthead. In addition, Davor Engel, the chairman of the Zoning Committee, can be reached at 773.202.1010. All of your comments will be considered by the Zoning Committee and the WWCA Board in making their recommendations on this project proposal.

Once again, on page 11 of the December *Wire* is a short survey we would like all neighbors to complete. If you haven't done so, please fill one out soon. The WWCA Board needs the input of all our neighbors in order to adapt and respond to the needs of the community. Please take a few minutes to read and complete the survey. If you prefer, go to the WWCA website (www.westwalker.org), where you can click on the survey link "We need your input!" and fill out the survey online. Please return the completed written survey to board member Dorie Westmeyer at 4128 N. Springfield Ave., Chicago, IL 60618. Your input is very important. Please give us your feedback.

Please take the time to provide your comments. Both the project proposal and survey are important to ensure that the West Walker Community, and the West Walker Civic Association, continue to grow into the future.

Mike Webber, President, West Walker Civic Association

New Treasurer and Wire Editor Needed

TWO VERY IMPORTANT POSITIONS will be vacant in the near future. The first is the WWCA officer position of treasurer. John Minor will be stepping down after almost three years of service. As treasurer, John has kept track of income, primarily from dues, advertising, and donations, and paid expenses for WWCA operations. John has also maintained our membership roster. John's participation has been greatly appreciated, and he will be missed. As an officer, the treasurer meets with other officers and board members to guide the activities of the WWCA.

Also, Anne Marie O'Kelley, our talented *Wire* editor, will be moving on in the early spring. Everyone who has read and enjoyed the *Wire* over the years sees the end result of a very dedicated editor. Anne Marie's contributions have been greatly appreciated by all. The editor position requires desktop publishing expertise and some general editing and writing tasks. Because of the need for a seamless transition, an editor candidate needs to be identified within the next one or two months.

If interested, please contact Mike Webber or any officer or board member.

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

Dorie Westmeyer

CAPS COORDINATOR

Jane Nagle

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

WEST WALKER CARRIER STAFF

Glenda Begecke
Bert Bradtke
Shannon Bunting
Derek Clark
Connie Engel
Patti Freko
Amanda Hayman
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

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 Special Meeting Minutes

From November 16, 2010

The meeting opened at 7:08 p.m. Officers present: Davor Engel, Mike Webber, John Minor, Carol Barry, and board member Dorie Westmeyer.

Mike Webber opened the meeting and introduced WWCA Zoning Committee Chairman Davor Engel and committee members Ellyn Nugent and Dave Knickerbocker. After describing the meeting format, property owner/developer Tom Lichter and his team were introduced. Using projected images, a review of the site was shown.

Previous iterations of the project were shown 2006 to the present. Earlier proposals included four-story buildings, similar to the Renaissance Condo building (4152-4 N. Elston). The current proposal is for six individual 3.5 story buildings, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and some are three bedrooms and three bathrooms. These structures will be approximately 10 feet lower than the Renaissance.

The current zoning is C1-1, which is commercially restricted. A change to B2 is being requested, which will not include commercial space on the first floor. One reason an R zoning is not being requested is that the City Zoning Department would not be willing to change from a C1 to an R4. The question was posed: "Was there thought given to commercial businesses on the first floor?" The attorney for the project responded that the space would be too small for anything but offices. The current estimated price point for the two bed/two bath is \$225,000. Currently, financing has not been secured and the buildings would be erected one at a time.

A number of concerns were raised by residents. Concerns about the condominiums going unsold were brought up. A 70 percent occupancy was suggested to be needed to get financing for a unit. The condo building at 3454 N. Elston is mostly empty and no one is moving in. There are empty units in other condo buildings. Traffic studies and flooding were issues for this area, and a traffic study was suggested to assess the project's impact.

Mr. Lichter said he has funding of his own to ensure that this project moves forward. Chicago does not require a traffic study for a building this size. The Municipal Water Reclamation District must sign off on construction so the project will be reviewed for drainage and flow concerns. Generally, there is less flooding on a major arterial street.

Davor Engel read the mission statement, saying that if we want to follow it, there will be trade-offs resulting in some pressure on the community and its resources.

Tom Lichter told the group that he was born in the ward, lives in the area, and has no plans of not seeing the project through. He said he'd like to do the right thing and decide together. A short break was taken, community members socialized over coffee, and the Lichter team exited.

Next, West Walker environmental specialist Michelle Kaicener presented the City of Chicago Weatherization kits.

Mike Webber reconvened stating that the Zoning Committee will take comments back to the developer. If there are big changes, the developer might need to present again. At the conclusion of the evaluation process, the Zoning Committee will give a recommendation to the WWCA Board, which will in turn provide a recommendation to the alderman's office.

Next, former Zoning Committee member Marvin Weinstein spoke. He stated that the Vision Statement didn't envision a wall of condos along Elston, but more of a pedestrian-friendly shopping district. Parking will have an effect on traffic and the residential streets near the developments. He believes that the development of condos would encourage landowners to cash in and sell their properties to condo developers. Mr. Lichter owns buildings that are leased to several auto shops and parts businesses on Elston, and Marvin believes he has not always been a good neighbor. He proposed that we meet with Mr. Lichter and ask for more commercial development. Marvin would like to see the Zoning Committee create a development plan for Elston, rather than approving projects on a case-by-case basis.

Michelle Kaicener said that in the 2040 city plan, livable communities are promoted with an emphasis on compact, mixed use, and walkability. They promote lower-energy modes of transportation like public transportation, biking, and walking. She'd like to see Elston developed in that direction.

Other issues from the floor were addressed: "Could there be two parking spaces for each unit?" When the Zoning Committee met with the developers, they requested two parking spots. Mr. Lichter said he wouldn't be able to make this viable in terms of cost and space. "Would the area around the development be green?" Mr. Lichter's team has indicated that this would be the case. A landscaped area pleasing to the eye helps the community and sales of the property. "What can we do if the developer tries to switch the development from the original?" There is an agreement that the developer must follow in the contract. Gratitude was expressed to the Zoning Committee for their hard work.

Mike Webber said that comments would be considered by the Zoning Committee and the WWCA Board and thanked everyone for participating. Meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

CAPS Report

by Jane Nagle, CAPS Coordinator

Specific West Walker Issues Discussed at November 17, 2010 CAPS Meeting for Beat #1723

- Attendees reported continued loud, raucous activity on the 3900 block of Montrose (and surrounding streets) on Saturday nights/Sunday mornings generally during the hours of 1 to 3 a.m. If you experience such activity, please call 911 and provide as much information as possible.

Statistics by type of crime in the West Walker neighborhood (October 20 - November 17):

Assault - simple	1
Battery - aggravated: handgun	1
Battery - domestic battery simple	2
Burglary (forcible entry)	1
Burglary (unlawful entry)	1
Criminal damage to vehicle	1
Criminal damage (criminal defacement)	1
Criminal damage to vehicle	7
Deceptive practice - illegal use of cash card	2
Motor vehicle theft (automobile)	2
Non-criminal - attempted suicide	2
Non-criminal - suicide	1
Non-criminal found property	1
Non-criminal lost property	1
Other offense - sex offender - failure to register new address	2
Other offense - violation of order of protection	1
Other offense - harassment by electronic means	1
Other offense - telephone threat	1
Robbery - strong arm - no weapon	3
Robbery - vehicular hijacking	1
Theft (\$300 and under)	3
Theft (over \$300)	1

We were advised at the October 20 meeting that the CAPS program is in the process of being revamped. At this

point, most officers are getting back on the street. Beat #1723 will continue to have monthly meetings until the end of the year and, because it is such an active beat, it is expected that monthly meetings will continue. Other beats may have bi-monthly meetings with an opportunity to be heard at other beat meetings. Sgt. Barker will likely continue to be the beat officer for Beat #1723. We will monitor the changes to the CAPS Program and report the same. Please continue to attend meetings for Beat #1723 as this may help retain our monthly meetings.

CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meetings for 2010 for our beat are currently 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, December 15.

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.

JEFFREY W. FEARN, CPA

Small Business Solutions, Inc.

- » Small business startup consulting
- » Illinois incorporation assistance
- » Business entity selection
- » Bookkeeping & write-up services
- » Payroll tax services
- » Financial statement compilation
- » Business and personal tax returns
- » IRS and IDR notifications
- » Amended tax return preparation
- » 30 years of accounting and tax experience
- » **Reasonable rates, friendly local service!**

773.463.1940

4215 N Pulaski Rd. • Irving Park, Chicago
jeffreyfearncpa@hotmail.com

www.smallbusiness-solutionsinc.com

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



Luzadder & Associates
A financial advisory practice of
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.
Cyrus Clausen, CRPC®
2400 Ravine Way, Suite 100
Glenview, IL 60025
847-486-9700
<http://www.ameripriseadvisors.com/cyrus.x.clausen/>

To start a conversation, call us at (847) 486-9700.

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA.





39th Ward Report



THIS IS A WONDERFUL time of year to connect with friends and family and enjoy all that Chicago offers. The twinkling holiday lights, if installed and used safely, can transform our neighborhoods into a winter wonderland. If used incorrectly, lights can lead to fire.

The Chicago Fire Department asked me to pass along the following tips to avoid fires this holiday season:

- Avoid overloading extension cords or light strings. There should be no more than three sets of lights on an extension cord.
- Don't connect large light sets through miniature light sets.
- Never use an open flame near a real or an artificial tree.
- Candles should be held firmly by non-flammable holders. Do not leave unattended. Keep candles away from flammable materials and out of the reach of children.

I'm sure that most people have working smoke detectors

in their homes. Are you aware that you should replace smoke detectors every 10 years? I have a limited number of free smoke detectors available to seniors 65 and older. If you're a senior in doubt about the age of your smoke detector, please stop by my Ward Office (4404 W. Lawrence) and pick up a free detector.

Winter weather is now upon us. One of the surest signs of winter in Chicago is the return of the city's annual snow-related parking restrictions. On Wednesday, December 1, 2010, at 3 a.m., Chicago reactivated 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.

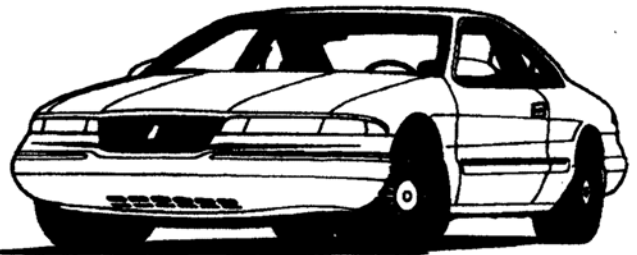
My staff and I send best wishes to everyone in the West Walker community for a happy and healthy holiday season.

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

TRIANGLE

AUTO SERVICE, INC.

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1966



YOUR FULL SERVICE AUTO REPAIR CENTER

- HEATERS/AIR CONDITIONING
- BRAKES, SHOCKS & STRUTS
- TUNE UPS • BELTS & HOSES
- STARTERS & ALTERNATORS
- COOLING SYSTEM REPAIR & FLUSHES
- GENERAL AUTO REPAIR



773.539.5858

TWO LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU
4060 N. ELSTON
3700 W. IRVING PARK
CHICAGO, IL 60618

WWCA Members

THANKS FOR RENEWING or becoming members of WWCA! A list of those neighbors who have joined or renewed from October 1 through November 27, 2010 appears below.

Glenda and Bob Begeske
 Marwin and Bence Brown
 Noe Cabrea and
 Lorena Garcia
 Kirsten Gettings
 Charlene Greif
 Tarin and Steve Kendrick
 Mary Matrango
 Jim and Hanna Naisbitt
 Bill Palmer
 Mark and Susan Pascale

Thomas and Hui Pierce
 Pulaski Dry Cleaners
 Gene Radek
 Ricky Rosado
 Thillens Inc.
 Beth Tigue and Ed Matos
 Elane Tirck
 Mike and Jessica Vahey
 Tom and Nancy Walker
 Mel and Dorie Westmeyer



ComputerRoE Consulting

Dan RoE

Virus removal, data recovery & website support
 On-site pc, mac & server repairs & installs
 Appointment & emergency calls accepted
 Tutoring for all ages!

Over 20 years of Technology Experience
 (312) 238-9392

dan@computerroe.com
 www.computerroe.com

Modern Dental Care
 for All Ages

CITY-SMILES

3800 North Pulaski, Chicago, IL 60641 □ 773-663-3800
 Fax 773-663-3146 □ www.citysmilesonline.com

Receive An
**ADDITIONAL
 20% OFF**
 With This Ad*

FELDCO Makes it Simple... One Call Takes Care of it All!



Ask about our latest generation of windows offering enhanced

- Safety
- Comfort
- Security
- Affordability



Windows • Siding • Doors

CALL NOW OR VISIT A SHOWROOM FOR A FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATE!

1-866-4-FELDCO

Se Habla Español ■ 1-866-433-5326



Professional Quality
AT DO-IT-YOURSELF PRICES!

- CHICAGO: 9932 S. Western Avenue
- DES PLAINES: 125 East Oakton
- DOWNERS GROVE: 1406 Butterfield Road
- ROCKFORD: 747 S. Perryville Road
- BLOOMINGTON: 1103 MLK Drive, Bldg H
- MILWAUKEE: 1708 S. 108th St. in West Allis
- INDIANAPOLIS: 8818 Corporation Drive

www.4FELDCO.com

Family owned and operated for over 30 years.



*Not to be combined with any other offer.



News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Food Pantry Adds Client Resources Coordinator

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry has hired **Belma N. Torres** to serve as its new part-time client resources coordinator. She will assist our clients to locate additional resources to help them with their needs and help the Pantry coordinate with other community organizations to ensure closer communication and partnerships.

The position was created with a grant from the Chicago Community Trust, a regional community foundation.



Loyola grad student Belma Torres has joined the Irving Park Community Food Pantry as its new part-time client resources coordinator. Photo by Kate Roche.

Donations Needed for Holiday

The Pantry needs help to ensure that our special holiday distribution this month is a success. A record number of people were supplied with a holiday meal during the Thanksgiving distribution, and we need to replenish those supplies to ensure we can meet the demand for the December drive.

We need extra donations of juice, stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned yams and vegetables, instant potatoes, cake mixes and pumpkin-pie filling. Monetary donations will help us supplement these donations and provide gift certificates so our largest families can buy a turkey to complete their meal.

We also need contributions of new toys, books, and games suitable for children from infant to 12 years old. Please help us make the holiday season more joyful for many in our community who otherwise will not be able to enjoy the treats that many of us take for granted.

The holiday distribution will take place on December 15, and the Pantry will be closed for the two following weeks, reopening on January 5, 2011.

Thanks to everyone in our community who has helped the Pantry this year, ensuring that we never have to turn away a client because we've run out of food. We wish you a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season and a great new year!

Building Community

by Michelle Kaicener, greenwestwalker@gmail.com

WITH THE HOLIDAYS fast approaching, it is a good time to pause and think back on what has been, for most people, a very difficult year. People have struggled with mortgage payments and foreclosed homes. Small businesses have struggled to pay bills and make payroll. Food banks have been inundated with people and suffered from lack of supplies. More people are on food stamps. The unemployment rate in Chicago is still 9.8 percent.

It is time to start considering how to structure more resilient communities and rebuild our local economies. People ought to be able to live close to where they work. People ought to have access to decent amenities and green space, with good access to transit. We need to foster diversity and quality of life in our neighborhoods for all our residents.

The City of Chicago has launched a new plan, the "GO TO 2040" Plan, to restore the health of our communities by bringing residences, jobs, and green space back together,

If you read nothing else this week, please take a look at the plan, and let's try and build a West Walker neighborhood that more effectively provides community, jobs, amenities, and quality of life for all its residents.

Website of the month: www.cmap.illinois.gov/2040/main

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

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1922
PRE ARRANGED & PREPAID FUNERALS AVAILABLE

Cooney Funeral Home
& Cremation Services

3918 W. Irving Park Rd.
Chicago, IL 60618
Phone (773) 588-5850
Fax (773) 279-9802

625 Busse Hwy.
Park Ridge, IL 60068
Phone (847) 685-1002
Fax (847) 685-1005

www.cooneyfuneralhome.com

Paddy Mac's

4157 N Pulaski 773-279-9300
PaddyMacsChicago.com

Daily Dine in Specials;

Monday

\$4 1/2lb Burger w/fries
\$2 Bottles of High Life

Tuesday

.50 cent Wings
\$2 Bottles of MGD 64

Wednesday

\$10 Full Slab of Ribs w/fries
\$6 Half Slab w/fries
\$2 Bottles of Old Style

Thursday

\$5 Mac & Cheese
\$2 Bottles of Coors Light

Friday

\$7 All-You-Can-Eat Fish & Chips
\$2 Bottles of Bud Light



Open For Lunch At 11:00 AM

A Bible – A Book: A Gift That Lasts

HOLIDAY SALE: Fri. Nov. 26 – Sat. Dec. 18

20% off a book of your choice.

*"All Scripture is God-breathed
and profitable..."*

2 Timothy 3:16



CHICAGO BIBLE & BOOKS

3931 W. Irving Park Rd. • 773.478.0550

Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

www.BiblesandBooks.com

Scene at the West Walker Holiday Art Fair

TWENTY-FIVE ARTISTS and artisans were represented in the third annual West Walker Holiday Art Fair, which took place November 27. Hundreds of neighbors shopped for gifts, enjoyed lunch provided by Gata Bee Crepes, and listened to holiday music by Eddie Torrez and the Independence Park bluegrass musicians. The event raised more than \$2,000 for Carlson Community Services' community garden and after-school program. Thanks to everyone who shopped or volunteered!



Goodbye, Mrs. Dunne

by Susan Harris

Excerpted with permission from the Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association "Voice"

WHEN MARGY DUNNE was raising her children in Albany Park in the early 1980s, she frequently took them to the local branch of the Chicago Public Library. One day, Margy discovered that the branch had lost its children's librarian and, due to a shortage, perhaps would be unable to find a replacement.

Margy, who had been a special education teacher for five years, thought being a librarian would allow her to work with children without the constraints of the classroom. So she enrolled at Rosary (now Dominican) University and earned her master's in library science. In 1985 she became the children's librarian at the Independence Branch, and she has worked there ever since.

From the beginning, Margy loved the variety of her job. She ordered books and evaluated the collection, kept up with trends in children's publishing, spoke at schools, and designed the window displays.

Thanks to the neighborhood Friends of the Library and a coalition of aldermen, the library was able to leave its inadequate space for the former Ross's department store at 3548 W. Irving Park Road in 1995.

The new location brought increased popularity and rising circulation. From 1995 to 2005, the Independence Branch was one of the top 10 branches in Chicago by circulation; now it's in the top 15 of 80. Of the library's collections, 35 percent is juvenile and young adult, with 11,500 to 12,500 books circulating per month, and 28 percent of the books out at any given time.

Now, as Margy notes, the catalog and many reference sources are available online, and patrons can reserve books from home. The advances in technology have freed librarians from rote tasks and allowed them to devote more time to personal interaction with visitors.

Programming has always been her favorite part of the job ("It's like being a party planner"), and Margy and her colleague of 18 years, Janet Rogers, have a full schedule. Story Hour and Mother Goose on the Loose meet once weekly for 30 weeks per year. One to two special programs are presented per month. September and October are heavy class visit months, with as many as 15

classes visiting the library in a month and a total of 40 in the course of the school year. She also travels to local schools to introduce students to the library.

The summer reading program at the Independence Park branch has always had the most participants in the city. The theme is selected by the central library and runs for eight weeks, and Margy and Janet work with many neighborhood organizations to involve as many children as possible. The past few years have seen nearly 2,000 participants each summer.

Margy has been at the library for 25 years and has never wanted to transfer. Her great inspiration was the book *Goodbye, Mister Chips*, in which a teacher influenced multiple generations of a community. To her pleasure, many of the children from her first Story Hours are now parents sending their own children to her. And her work was recognized by her colleagues, who selected her as Librarian of the Year of the Chicago Public Library in 2002.

Margy will retire in January. She'll continue to do programming in schools and libraries to raise money for charitable causes. And she plans to travel to China, New Zealand, and Turkey—fitting destinations for someone who's introduced so many children to the wide world of books.



NOT JUST ANOTHER
PRETTY SAUCE

773 545-RIBS • 3800 N. PULASKI



St. Edward School News

The annual St. Edward Christmas Cookie Walk will be held in Buckley Hall on Sunday, December 12 from 8 a.m.

to 1 p.m. Come pick up some home-baked treats and browse the various gifts that are perfect for Christmas!

Top Performers in Academic Events

Congratulations to our seventh- and eighth-grade Quiz Bowl teams that won first place at St. Benedict High School this year! Congratulations to team members Jillian Gomez, Patrick Alicante, Christopher San Juan, Ramir Aguilos, and Jenny Joseph. Way to go, kids!

CICS-Irving Park School News

Leo Burnett Art Program

Leo Burnett has generously donated money to fund a supplemental art program for the students of CICS-Irving Park. This program will consist of several art projects throughout the course of this school year. There will be an All For Art Show at the end of the year featuring

the students' work. During this program we will also be exposing the students to real careers in art-related fields!

Happenings at St. Viator

Primary Gym Begins

As winter pushes its way into Chicago, get your family out of the house on Saturday mornings. Primary gym is open to children ages 0 to third grade on the first and third Saturday of each month (8:30 to 10:00 a.m.). Stop by and see what primary gym has to offer you and your child. Contact Brian Downes at 312.402.8338 or bdownes@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Belding School Events

Belding Library Receives New Technology

Belding librarian Michael Westfall applied for and received a "Chicago Teacher Librarians for the 21st Century" grant. As part of this grant, sponsored by CPS and Dominican University, Michael completed a master's program and attended several professional development sessions.

School of Rock!

Belding music teacher Susan Kirschbaum was awarded a grant from Little Kids Rock, which provided 31 guitars and a drum set for Belding School. These instruments will be incorporated into Belding's music program.

An International Celebration

Belding School is one of the most diverse in Chicago—44 countries of origin are represented by our students and their parents. In celebration, Belding is hosting an International Festival on Wednesday, December 15. An International Assembly will be held in the auditorium at 6 p.m. Join us and see our "united nations" of students celebrating and learning together.

Come See What Belding Has to Offer

Each month Principal Heather Yutzy offers school tours for prospective parents. The next tour is on January 18. Tours begin at 9:15 a.m. in the school office.

MANY VOICES, ONE STORY ... JOIN US AS WE REVISIT THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Children's Pageant - December 19, 10 a.m.

Longest Night Service - December 20, 7 p.m.

Caroling in Old Irving - December 21, 7-9 p.m.

Christmas Eve - Candlelight service, 7 p.m.

Lessons & Carols - Sunday, December 26, 10 a.m.



WE INVITE YOU TO COME EXPERIENCE THE EXCITING
WORSHIP AND WITNESS TAKING PLACE HERE.



Sunday worship - Holy communion served weekly
10 A.M. (ENGLISH) - Vickie Hadaway, lead pastor
NOON (SPANISH) - Cecilia Obret, lay pastor
Michelle Stephens - children and youth minister
Chris Stephens - student pastor
Jonathan Braun - director of music

3801 North Keeler Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60641 • 773-283-6262 • www.irvingparkumc.com
We are a welcoming community of faith that is Rethinking Church



4110 N. Elston Ave.
Chicago, IL 60618
www.gardenchicago.com

PAUL, JACK & JEAN PRIKOS



YOUR OPINION IS IMPORTANT! PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

Dear Neighbors:

The West Walker Civic Association (WWCA) is constantly striving to improve our efforts for our community. In order to serve you best, we need your input. Please take a moment to fill out the questionnaire and return it to: **Dorie Westmeyer, 4128 N. Springfield Ave., Chicago, IL 60618.** You can also fill out this survey online at **www.westwalker.org**.

A. WWCA MEETINGS

WWCA currently sponsors six community meetings annually. Typically there is a guest speaker followed by a community meeting.

- 1. Have you attended a meeting in the past year?
 - ___ yes (go to question 2)
 - ___ no (go to question 3)

- 2. If you have attended a meeting, did you find it beneficial?
 - ___ yes (additional comments) _____
 - ___ no (additional comments) _____

- 3. If you do not attend WWCA community meetings, please tell us why (check all that apply):
 - ___ a. I don't know when or where the meetings are
 - ___ b. I don't have time
 - ___ c. The meeting time is not convenient
 - ___ d. I can't bring my children
 - ___ e. The speakers are not interesting to me
 - ___ f. It should just be a community meeting without a speaker
 - ___ g. I am just not interested in going to a meeting
 - ___ h. The meetings run too long
 - ___ i. There is no agenda for the meeting
 - ___ j. Other (please specify) _____

- 4. If we continue with WWCA meetings, what type of meetings would you like to see? (check all that apply)
 - ___ a. Brief community meeting
 - ___ b. Social events for the whole family
 - ___ c. Meeting on a weekend vs. a weeknight
 - ___ d. Other speakers (please specify) _____
 - ___ e. Other (please specify) _____

B. WEST WALKER WIRE

The West Walker Wire is a free neighborhood newsletter that is published and delivered 10 times a year to your home.

- 5. Do you read the West Walker Wire?
 - ___ yes
 - ___ no

- 6. Tell us how you feel about the Wire (check all that apply):
 - ___ The information is helpful
 - ___ The articles are interesting
 - ___ I like that it is free
 - ___ I like that it is delivered to my home
 - ___ I wish there was more information about (please specify) _____
 - ___ I wish it was delivered more in advance of the West Walker monthly meeting
 - ___ I would like to save a tree. It should be an electronic newsletter

(more options at top of 2nd column)

- ___ The WWCA should save printing costs by changing the Wire to an electronic newsletter
- ___ I patronize businesses who advertise in the Wire

C. WEST WALKER WEBSITE

- 7. What would you like to see on the Website?
 - ___ Crime statistics in our neighborhood
 - ___ A place to submit my concerns
 - ___ Local business coupon offers
 - ___ Calendar of West Walker events
 - ___ Event information
 - ___ Links to (please specify) _____
 - ___ Other (please specify) _____

D. WEST WALKER EVENTS

The West Walker Civic Association sponsors several events throughout the year.

- 8. Please tell us which West Walker events you attend:
 - ___ The Winter Social (February)
 - ___ The Garage Sale (May)
 - ___ Walk West Walker Scavenger Hunt (May)
 - ___ The 4th of July at Independence Park (July)
 - ___ West Walker Cup Golf Outing (September)
 - ___ The Halloween Fall Festival (October)
 - ___ Art in My Backyard (AIMBY)
- 9. Would you like to see more West Walker sponsored events (check all that apply)?
 - ___ Food drive for the Irving Park Pantry
 - ___ Fundraiser for the homeless in our neighborhood
 - ___ Holiday party
 - ___ Sports day in the park (basketball, softball, soccer, etc.)
 - ___ Family picnic
 - ___ Carnival
 - ___ Street fair
 - ___ Taste of West Walker (sample food from neighborhood restaurants)
 - ___ Ice cream social
 - ___ Other (please specify) _____
 - ___ We have enough events already

Additional comments or ideas _____

- 10. Are you a member of the West Walker Civic Association?
 - ___ yes
 - ___ no

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey!

(Optional) Name _____
Address _____
Email address _____

*Celebrate in
your neighborhood!*

WWCA Holiday Party

*Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010, 10 a.m. to noon
Tapestry Center Cafe, 3824 W. Irving Park Road*

* Children, please bring your parents!

* Enjoy cookies, kid-friendly beverages, and coffee with your neighbors.

* Kids (and adults) can make a special ornament for your tree.

* Cookie exchange: Bring two dozen or so of your favorites, and take something new home.

* Donations of non-perishable foods will be collected for the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. Please help those in need.

RSVP by December 16 to Mike Webber
773.539.8346 or webber.wwca@gmail.com

