

WEST WALKER WIRE

MARCH 2011

www.westwalker.org

March Meeting Looks to the Future

by Mike Webber

RATHER THAN A FORMAL SPEAKER, during our March 15 WWCA General Meeting we will explore two areas that have been extensively covered recently in the *Wire*, the 4247-4259 Elston residential project proposal and the WWCA survey.

We will take time during the March meeting to present and discuss responses we have received on both these topics. As they both present an opportunity to discuss the future goals of the community and the West Walker Civic Association's role in envisioning and molding that future, I am sure it will be an informative and lively discussion. If you have an interest in providing input in planning the future of West Walker, don't miss this meeting.

Inside this issue of the *Wire*, you will find the survey results (page 15) as well as a reproduction of a letter to Alderman Laurino from the WWCA Executive Board in support of the Elston project (page 3). Also, read the Dear Neighbor column on page 2 for further details on these topics. Come to the March meeting at the Latvian Community Center prepared to express your views, listen to other opinions, and start to build a consensus for the future course of West Walker.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 15 • 7 p.m.
(PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME)
WWCA General Meeting
Latvian Community Center
4146 N. Elston Ave.

March 19 • 10 a.m.
Irving Park Garden Club Meeting
St. John's Church
3857 N. Kostner

March 19 • 5:30 p.m.
Faith Filled Families
Irving Park United Methodist Church
3801 N. Keeler

March 20 • 5-7 p.m.
Chili Supper to benefit Three Bros. Garden
Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym
4057 N. Harding Ave.

March 23 • 7-9 p.m.
17th District Town Hall Meeting
Salvation Army Metropolitan Division
5040 N. Pulaski Road

March 26 & 27 • 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Maple Syrup Festival
North Park Village Nature Center
5801 N. Pulaski Road

March 26 • 8 p.m.
Shawn Thomas in Concert
Irving Park United Methodist Church
3801 N. Keeler

April 1 • 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

April 2 • 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friends of Independence Park Library
Book Sale
Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym
4057 N. Harding Ave.

Through April 3
Seanachai Theatre Company
Presents *That Was Then*
Third Floor Theatre, Irish American
Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox

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

Dear Neighbor,

SINCE LAST NOVEMBER, we have been involved in two separate, but related, processes here in West Walker. Both will help us focus on what the WWCA organization and the West Walker community will look like in the future.

The first of these processes is the community survey that many took the time to fill out online or in writing. The results of that survey are published on page 15 of the *March Wire*. Although the check-box responses are reported, there were also many narrative responses, too many to publish here, but we will have the time to share them during our WWCA General Meeting on March 15. The survey results will serve as a possible touchstone for changes to the WWCA organization, including the types of meeting we hold and events we sponsor.

The second process has been the evaluation of a proposal for residential development located at 4247-4259 N. Elston Ave. An enormous amount of time and energy was committed to this evaluation. Ultimately, the WWCA Executive Board determined that the project would be appropriate when judged against the West Walker Vision Statement, and a copy of that recommendation, as forwarded to Alderman Laurino, is replicated on page 3 of the *March Wire*. The consideration of this project has created a great interest in how to best direct efforts relating to development in West Walker.

There is a great amount of desire and energy in our community, which, with effort and direction, can be harnessed to build West Walker into the vibrant neighborhood contemplated by the Vision Statement. We will restart the discussion of how to get there at the March meeting. I hope to see you there.

Mike Webber
President, WWCA

Friends of Independence Library Book Sale

LOOKING FOR A GOOD READ? The Friends of Independence Park Library will hold its first off-site book sale at the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym, 4057 N. Harding Ave., on Friday April 1 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday April 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Independence Library.



Please bring books to donate to the gym on Thursday, March 31 from 4 to 8 p.m. The current members pre-sale will be held March 31 from 6 to 8 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer at the book sale, please call Roberta Bole at 773.588.4057 or 773.505.2595 or email her at robertabole@hotmail.com.

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

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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



4036 N. Avers Ave.
Chicago, IL 60618
February 25, 2011

Alderman Margaret Laurino
39th Ward Office
4404 W. Lawrence Ave.
Chicago, IL 60630

Dear Alderman Laurino:

The Zoning Committee of the West Walker Civic Association has recently considered a proposal to change the zoning from C-1-1 to B-2-2 on property located at 4247-4259 N. Elston Ave for the construction of six three-unit residential dwellings. In addition, the developers of the proposed project presented renderings and plans for the project at a special WWCA meeting on November 16, 2010. Since that time, we have solicited input from all community members, including those who were unable to attend the November presentation.

By a substantial margin, community response favors the proposed residential construction. More importantly, when judged against the goals embraced by the WWCA Vision Statement, the Zoning Committee has determined that the proposed construction fulfills the goals of the Vision Statement for residential development as one factor in the overall development of Elston Avenue and the West Walker Community as a whole.

The Executive Board of the WWCA has considered the recommendations of the Zoning Committee and feedback from the community, and had also independently reviewed the project in light of the goals set forth by the WWCA Vision Statement. After careful consideration, the Executive Board has voted to recommend that approval of the proposed zoning change be granted, subject to final design approval and covenants.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Webber
WWCA President

CAPS Report

by Jane Nagle, CAPS Coordinator

Welcome to the New Commander

Commander Melissa A. Staples has replaced Commander Michael Mealer as 17th District Commander. We thank Commander Mealer for his service and welcome Commander Staples to her new position. Please come to the upcoming Town Hall Meeting to meet Commander Staples.

17th District Town Hall Meeting

Wednesday, March 23, 7- 9 p.m.
Salvation Army Metropolitan Division
5040 N. Pulaski Road

This Annual Town Hall Meeting is an opportunity for everyone with a vested interest in the community to come together and hear about the successes, goals, and future of the 17th District.

Report from February 16, 2011 CAPS Meeting

Sergeant Ken Pang is our new CAPS officer, replacing Sergeant Kristen Barker in January. Welcome to Sergeant Pang.

Statistics by type of crime in the West Walker neighborhood (January 19 - February 16):

Battery - Aggravated: Other Dangerous Weapon	1
Battery - Domestic Battery Simple	4
Battery - Simple	1
Burglary (Forcible Entry)	1
Criminal Damage to Vehicle	1
Deceptive Practices - Theft of Labor/Services	1
Motor Vehicle Theft (Automobile)	3
Motor Vehicle Theft (Recovery of Auto)	1
Motor Vehicle Theft (Truck, Bus, Motor Home)	1
Non-criminal - Lost Property	3
Non-criminal - Missing Person	1

Have a CAPS Issue?

You can submit concerns to CAPS online at <https://portal.chicagopolice.org/portal/page/portal/ClearPath>. Then, on the left-hand side, click "Report a concern about an issue affecting your neighborhood."

Offense Involving Children - Child Abuse	1
Other Offense - Harassment by Telephone	2
Robbery - Aggravated	1
Robbery - Armed - Handgun	1
Theft (\$300 and Under)	1
Theft (\$500 and Under) - From Auto	3
Theft - Attempted Theft	2
Theft - From Building	1
Theft - Retail - Shoplifting	1

For certain complaints (such as loud noise, panhandlers, and aggressive people), the police often need to see an activity to make an arrest or take other action. In such cases, reporting the activity at a CAPS meeting or making a community concern report through ClearPath is not as helpful in resolving the issue as calling 911. So, in addition to registering such a complaint at a CAPS meeting or through a community concern report, a person seeing and wishing to report such activity should call 911 at the time the activity is occurring, so the police can respond, see the activity, and take appropriate action.

There was an uptick of graffiti and tagging in the days following the snowstorm in early February, and removal of graffiti is taking longer than in the past. Please continue to report graffiti to: (1) 311 for graffiti removal (don't forget to ask for a tracking number so you can call back to get a status report if the removal is not completed) and (2) the 17th District (CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org) by sending a photo of the graffiti along with the address or location so the graffiti can be logged in its database.

The Town Hall Meeting on March 23 replaces our regular beat meeting in March. With that exception, CAPS meetings for our beat are currently held monthly at the 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski, in the Community Room. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month and typically last one hour. The next regularly scheduled meeting for Beat 1723 is Wednesday, April 20.

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39th Ward Report



I APPRECIATE the confidence that the 39th Ward voters have shown in me by re-electing me to another term as your alderman. I will continue to work as an advocate for the West Walker community and the entire 39th Ward. We face challenging times in Chicago. I'm looking forward to facing those challenges

by working together with Mayor-elect Emanuel, my City Council colleagues, and of course, the residents of West Walker and the 39th Ward.

We've survived another tough Chicago winter! February brought us the third largest snowfall in Chicago's history. Weather emergencies, such as the blizzard, can bring out the best and worst in people. In the 39th Ward, we saw the best. Neighbors banded together to shovel out from

20 inches of snow. I would like to thank you for your patience and your community spirit as we got through the storm. Our 39th Ward Streets and Sanitation crews worked around the clock to clear out streets and alleys, and I am grateful for their efforts on our behalf.

North Park Village has a number of fun March activities for the whole family. Don't miss the annual Maple Syrup Festival at the North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski Road, on Saturday, March 26 and Sunday, March 27 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. This event is free and open to everyone. You can learn how maple trees are tapped, see how the sap is boiled into syrup, and taste some of the syrup on hot pancakes. Afterwards, enjoy some storytelling and live music.

As always, please contact my office at 773.736.5594 or Ward39@cityofchicago.org with any questions.

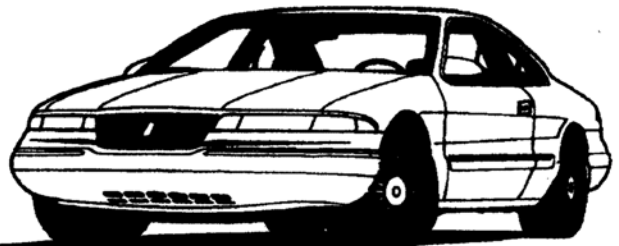
Sincerely, Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward

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News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Pantry to Survey Community

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry will soon be distributing a community survey to our neighborhood organizations and residents to be used to expand our services to our clients and for strategic planning. The survey, to be distributed via e-mail by Survey Monkey, will solicit feedback from churches, schools, community organizations, and businesses.

The survey will be combined with a client survey conducted in February to identify specific client needs and concerns. The information from these two surveys will be put toward our Enhanced Client Services Initiative, which is being coordinated by Client Resources Coordinator Belma Torres.

Be a Bunny for Pantry Children: The youth of Irving Park United Methodist Church create Easter Bags for approximately 250 young clients of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry in these age categories: Under 2, 2 to 5 years, and 6 to 8 years old. The distributions will take place this year on April 6, 13, and 20.



The Irving Park Community Food Pantry's Easter-basket distribution makes for a happy Easter for about 250 young Pantry clients.

The gift bags include Easter grass and layers of safe, fun, and useful things that can be found easily in a \$1 store: toys, crayons, stuffed animals, etc. Typically about 75 bags are given out each week.

Donations can be dropped off during regular business hours at the Irving Park United Methodist Church at Grace and Keeler (Grace Street entrance). Financial donations can be sent by mail or through Google checkout at the Pantry's website (www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org).

Church groups that want to participate in a group bagging session can contact viccirodgers@gmail.com. If you have any questions about donations, please contact the Pantry at info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org.

Augment Your Donation: During March and April, contributions to the Pantry are supplemented by funds from the Feinstein Challenge, a \$1-million fund operated by Alan Shawn Feinstein to aid hunger organizations nationwide. The total we receive is based on the size of the donation, with food donations valued at \$1 per item/pound. It is not a strict matching fund, but it does provide extra funding, usually several hundred dollars, and we appreciate your help in maximizing our contributions.

Food Drives Continue: Thanks go to the following groups who held food drives for the Pantry during December and January: Community Savings Bank (4801 W. Belmont), Chicago Academy (3400 N. Austin), Chicago International Charter School-Irving Park (3820 N. Spaulding), The Tennis Corporation of America (3611 N. Kedzie), and The Terraces of Old Irving Park.



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It's Seed Starting Time

by Michelle Kaicener
greenwestwalker@gmail.com

HERE WE ARE AGAIN, at the end of February. It's turned out to be a record month for snowfall—the most in February since 1896. Of course, this is a predictable result of a warming atmosphere, where more moisture collects and, therefore, we have greater precipitation.

We should prepare for a pretty active spring and summer season—lots of thunderstorms. Visit the NOAA website for more information: www.crh.noaa.gov/lot/

Meanwhile, I am already preparing for this year's planting season. One thing I have been working on is extending my growing season. Some vegetables, such as spinach, chard, carrots, and lettuce, can be started before last frost, approximately April 20. Seeds can be planted directly outside, in a protected area, six weeks before last frost.

Access to a small greenhouse or hoophouse can be helpful, as well as using a "cloche," essentially a plant cover to keep warmer air around the plant.

One can also construct a cold frame. This is essentially a raised bed covered by clear plastic or glass, which acts like a greenhouse to warm early plants on a sunny day and help to retain the warmer air. Don't forget to mulch well, to retain moisture during dry spells.

Best wishes for a great growing season!

Website of the Month:

www.motherearthnews.com/Organic-Gardening/2007-02-01/Garden-Know-how.aspx

West Walker Sustainability Group: <http://westwalker.net/>

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



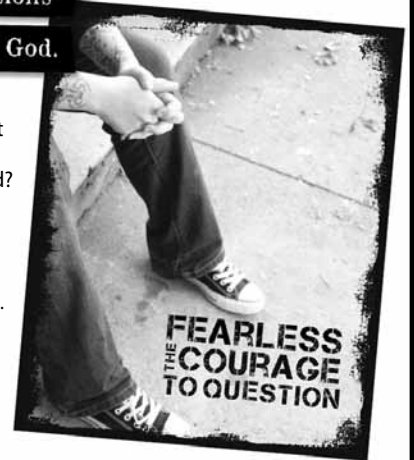
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You may be surprised to
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can bring you closer to God.

If God knows everything about me, why should I engage in conversation or prayer with God?

Join us on your journey through Lent

Ash Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m.
Palm Sunday, April 17, 10 a.m.
Holy Thursday, April 21, 7 p.m.
Good Friday, April 22, 7 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 24, 10 a.m.



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\$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

News and Events from Carlson Community Services



Carlson Community Services, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, serves the Irving Park

community with a variety of outreach efforts.

Chili Supper to Benefit the Three Brothers Garden 3/20

The Third Annual Chili Supper to benefit the Three Brothers Garden will be held Sunday, March 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gymnasium, 4057 N. Harding Ave. Local professional chef Ed Gardner will be serving up vegetarian and beef chili, corn bread, hot dogs, and salad. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and \$5 for kids 3-12; kids under 3 are free. For an additional charge, beverages will be available and diners can compete in a cake walk to win scrumptious desserts.

Kids can enjoy free entertainment and a craft table, so bring the whole family! Tickets for great raffle prizes can

be purchased at the event.

All funds raised at the supper will be used to plant and maintain the Three Brothers Garden and toward the installation of an irrigation system. Produce grown in the garden is donated to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. Since 2009, more than 1,300 pounds of vegetables have been distributed to pantry clients. Located at 4107 N. Pulaski Road, the garden is a partnership between Carlson Community Services and Irving Park Lutheran Church.



Kids of all ages enjoy the Kids' Craft Room at the Chili Supper.

If you'd like to learn more about the project, volunteer

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to work in the garden, or donate a raffle item or baked good to the Chili Supper, please contact Liz Mills at 773.398.6766 or lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org. For information about Carlson Community Services, go to www.carlsoncommunityservices.org.

IPFAC Hosts Birthday Party for Composer Hovhaness

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee celebrated the 100th birthday of American composer Alan Hovhaness in a concert featuring the composer's work on Sunday, February 27. The Naperville Chamber Players, an ensemble of seven accomplished musicians, performed eight works by Hovhaness, who died in 2000. The ethereal compositions reflected Hovhaness' interest in ancient oriental music.

The concert was followed by a reception put on by the Fine Arts Committee. A chocolate birthday cake, Hovhaness' favorite, was served.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series is in its 17th season. The final concert of the series will be held Sunday, April 10 at 2 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church. A free-will donation may be made. For more information, go to www.carlsoncommunityservices.org.

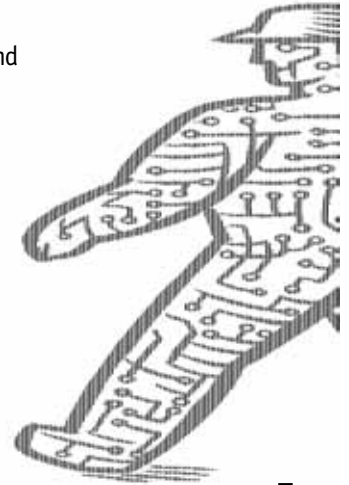


The Naperville Chamber Players were featured in a concert sponsored by the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee on Feb. 27.

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- The Wire is published 10 times a year (September through June).
- ALL AD ARTWORK is due on the 20th of the month prior. High-resolution pdfs, tiffs, and jpgs (black-and-white) are preferred. Microsoft Word files and camera-ready "hard copy" versions also are acceptable.
- WE PREFER that ad artwork be submitted as a file attachment and sent in an e-mail to: WWWire@solsticepr.com.

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Neighborhood School News



St. Viator School News

What better way to evaluate a school than by seeing it in action? St. Viator School will be open to all during the school

day on Wednesday, March 16 and Thursday, April 14 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The March open house features the first-, second- and third-grade classrooms. You will also have the opportunity to observe our Art Zone, music, and Spanish programs. The fourth- through eighth-grade classrooms will be highlighted during the April open house. Our science and computer labs will be open for viewing.

Save the date for a special end-of-the-year open house on Friday, May 6 from 6-8 p.m. The Art Zone Student Exhibit and Academic Fair will be showcased.

Open house information can be found at: www.stviatorchicago.org. Please contact us with questions or to schedule a personal tour with one of our staff. We look forward to meeting you! 773.545.2173

St. Edward School

Young Scientists

Several St. Edward students were selected to advance from our local science fair to the semi-regional science fair in mid-January. They were: Audrey Jahns, Maria Varela, Morgan Jost, Sabrina Kirby, Katlyn Johnson, Kayla Scanlan, Jillian Gomez, Dylan Gilbert, and Alex Lugo. Two of our students, Audrey Jahns and Sabrina Kirby, will now move on to the City of Chicago Science Fair at the Museum of Science and Industry. Good luck ladies!

Big Red Auction

Many exciting prizes will be on the live and silent auction block at St. Edward's annual "Big Red Auction." The gala will be held on Saturday, March 26 from 6 p.m. until midnight in Buckley Hall at 4343 W. Sunnyside Ave. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. For more information, call the school at 773.736.9133.

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New Things in Store for the Irving Park Garden Club

by Maureen Taylor, President
Irving Park Garden Club

THIS YEAR PROMISES to be an outstanding year for the Irving Park Garden Club. We will be doing the traditional



things like having informative guest speakers and hands-on demonstrations.

We also have two field trips planned, one in early spring to Sunrise Garden Center, and we're

working out the details of a "behind-the-scenes" trip to the Lincoln Park Conservatory, planned for later in the summer.

This season we have expanded the newsletter to include some new monthly features. Each month we will now

shine the spotlight on a garden of one of our members and interview the gardener of the house to find out what makes his or her garden so special. We will also be featuring a "plant of the month." We're adding a "Q & A" section as well as a "Garden Humor" section.

The Garden Club meets once a month from March thru October. Our meetings are always open to all, but you have to be a paid member to receive the newsletter, participate in the Plant Exchange in May, and the "members-only" garden walk and luncheon held in July. Our membership dues are still a bargain at \$15 a year.

Our first meeting of the year takes place on Saturday March 19 at 10 a.m. Our guest speaker will be landscape designer Kim Kaulas. She will be giving a talk titled "Multi-Season in the Garden." We meet at St. John's Church at 3857 N. Kostner. If you've considered joining the Garden Club in the past but never got around to it, this is the year to do it! Contact me, Maureen Taylor, president of the Irving Park Garden Club, for more information at 773.255.2789.

Jesus said,

The words which I have spoken to you are

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John 6:63

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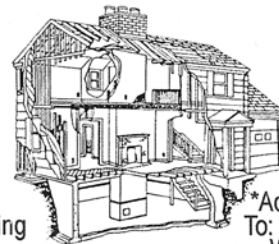
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Legislative Update

by Deborah Mell
State Representative, 40th District

NOW THAT THE NEW SESSION has started for the 97th General Assembly, I am working on a number of priorities to: cut spending, increase jobs, keep people in their homes, and reduce recidivism among the incarcerated population to keep our community safe and decrease costs.

My new committee assignments are as follows:
Vice-Chair of Mass Transit

Elementary and Secondary Education Appropriations
Aging
Elections Campaign and Reform
Human Services
Small Business Empowerment

If you would like to receive updates on legislative issues during the new session, please subscribe to our newsletter by emailing me at deb@debmell.org.

I look forward to continuing my service as your representative in Springfield. I invite you to subscribe to my newsletter or contact me with comments or questions on issues as they come before the legislature by emailing me at deb@debmell.org or calling my district office at 773.267.2880.



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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 February 8 through March 3, 2011 appears below.

Mauricio Blanco
Matt and Jennifer Olson
Thillens Inc.

Feel good about feeling better!



Pain and Energy Acupuncture Center

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Chicago, IL 60618 www.painandenergyacupuncture.com

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That Was Then Shows a New Side of Seanachai Theatre Co.

by Anne Sunseri
Seanachai Theatre company member

SEANACHAI IS DOING A COMEDY! Being an Irish company, we tend to produce some very beautiful, yet emotionally heavy pieces. That isn't to say that most dramas don't have humor sprinkled throughout them. Using humor to cope with pain is a very common distraction in Irish theater. It is one of the reasons we love sharing these stories. *That Was Then* is somewhat of a departure from our recent shows, and we are excited to show our audience a completely different side of us! While the play deals in the weighty issues of gender politics, the Celtic Tiger boom and bust, as well as deep-rooted Anglo-Irish prejudices, *That Was Then* is actually a riotous farce.

We are lucky to have such a wonderful group of actors. Being the youngest member of the cast, I feel fortunate to be working with such well-established, talented

actors. Molly Glynn, Joseph Wycoff, Ira Amyx, and Sarah Wellington are a joy to work with, and I am constantly awed by their talent and knack for comic timing. The show is set in two separate time periods simultaneously acted out on stage, so three of the biggest challenges we have faced are pace, timing, and not breaking into fits of laughter in the middle of a scene.

We have a cast that supports each other and works to make the production better in any way we can. We have all enjoyed this process immensely, and we are excited to share it with the audience.

That Was Then will be at the Irish-American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox, through April 3. Most performances are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. There will be no performance Saturday, March 12. A performance will be added on Wednesday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m.

For tickets call 866.811.4111 or buy tickets online at www.ovationtix.com.

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

Mail or drop off your application and dues to: Jack Prikos, 4238 N. Avers Ave., Chicago, IL 60618



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A Lot Is Happening at the Irving Park United Methodist Church!

Faith Filled Families

Saturday, March 19, 5:30 p.m.

A ministry for families of all sizes, types and ages . . . pre K, pre-teen, parents, and everyone in-between! We meet the third Saturday night of every month. It's an opportunity to get together and study scripture through interactive learning activities. We nurture one another as we learn more about biblical families and our own families.

We start with a potluck dinner in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. We end 7:30 p.m. Join us!

Christian Singer/Songwriter in Concert

Saturday, March 26, 8 p.m.

Shawn Thomas, a national recording artist, is on tour and stopping in Old Irving Park. Shawn's ministry is the natural combination of the musical and spiritual influences of his father, who is a minister, and his mother, who is a talented musician. A four-time Pride in the Arts Awards recipient from The Stonewall Society, Shawn is a performer, singer, versatile worship leader, and presenter. He shares the message

of God's of love and grace through music to help build unity, understanding, and acceptance while still encouraging personal responsibility, self-reliance, and the development of conviction and values.

The concert is free, but a good-will offering for the performer will be taken. Shawn also will perform during Sunday worship on March 27 at 10 a.m. www.shawnthomasonline.com.



Christian singer/songwriter Shawn Thomas will perform at the Irving Park United Methodist Church on March 26.

For more information on these events, worship services, and other activities, call 773.283.6262 or email: irvingparkumc@sbcglobal.net. The Irving Park United Methodist Church is located on the corner of Grace and Keeler in Old Irving Park (3801 N. Keeler). www.irvingparkumc.com

The West Walker Sustainability Group

The Transformation of Elston Avenue

We Have The Vision We Need A Plan

Support Our Efforts In Transforming Elston Avenue

into a bustling "Main Street" and pedestrian-friendly shopping district, where we can walk to restaurants and specialty shops, drawing the West Walker community together.

Help us develop the plan to achieve the vision.

We don't need to build 6 condo buildings at 4247 N Elston to do this.

That will only lead to more congestion, parking problems. & more condos

Join the growing number of West Walker residents who want to see other options for 4247 N Elston and a plan for Elston Avenue.

If you agree, send us an e-mail: elston@westwalker.net or use our petition at our Website at WESTWALKER.NET and also learn about sustainability.

This message provided by Institute Services, a West Walker Web Development business HighStyleInteractive.com as a community service in support of The West Walker Sustainability Group



THE RESULTS ARE IN! HERE IS HOW THE COMMUNITY RESPONDED

Over the past three months, the WWCA has conducted a survey to help us understand how the community perceives the role of the WWCA and what neighbors would like to see from the WWCA in the future. Printed below are the results of the 81 surveys we received.

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?
 34% yes (go to question 2)
 66% no (go to question 3)
- 2. If you have attended a meeting, did you find it beneficial?
 90% yes (additional comments) _____
 10% no (additional comments) _____
- 3. If you do not attend WWCA community meetings, please tell us why (check all that apply):
 18% a. I don't know when or where the meetings are
 33% b. I don't have time
 36% c. The meeting time is not convenient
 23% d. I can't bring my children
 2% e. The speakers are not interesting to me
 0% f. It should just be a community meeting without a speaker
 13% g. I am just not interested in going to a meeting
 5% h. The meetings run too long
 10% i. There is no agenda for the meeting
 0% j. Other (please specify) _____
- 4. If we continue with WWCA meetings, what type of meetings would you like to see? (check all that apply)
 70% a. Brief community meeting
 42% b. Social events for the whole family
 36% c. Meeting on a weekend vs. a weeknight
 16% d. Other speakers (please specify) _____
 11% 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?
 99% yes 1% no
- 6. Tell us how you feel about the Wire (check all that apply):
 87% The information is helpful
 59% The articles are interesting
 63% I like that it is free
 67% I like that it is delivered to my home
 13% I wish there was more information about (please specify) _____
 31% I wish it was delivered more in advance of the West Walker monthly meeting
 33% I would like to save a tree. It should be an electronic newsletter

(more options at top of 2nd column)

- 36% The WWCA should save printing costs by changing the Wire to an electronic newsletter
- 36% I patronize businesses who advertise in the Wire

C. WEST WALKER WEBSITE

- 7. What would you like to see on the Website?
 78% Crime statistics in our neighborhood
 59% A place to submit my concerns
 76% Local business coupon offers
 76% Calendar of West Walker events
 69% Event information
 14% Links to (please specify) _____
 10% 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:
 21% The Winter Social (February)
 81% The Garage Sale (May)
 23% Walk West Walker Scavenger Hunt (May)
 39% The 4th of July at Independence Park (July)
 10% West Walker Cup Golf Outing (September)
 55% The Halloween Fall Festival (October)
 47% Art in My Backyard (AIMBY)
- 9. Would you like to see more West Walker sponsored events (check all that apply)?
 51% Food drive for the Irving Park Pantry
 21% Fundraiser for the homeless in our neighborhood
 28% Holiday party
 23% Sports day in the park (basketball, softball, soccer, etc.)
 43% Family picnic
 30% Carnival
 47% Street fair
 75% Taste of West Walker (sample food from neighborhood restaurants)
 31% Ice cream social
 2% Other (please specify) _____
 7% We have enough events already

Additional comments or ideas _____

- 10. Are you a member of the West Walker Civic Association?
 69% yes 31% no

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey!

(Optional) Name _____
 Address _____
 Email address _____

West Walker Civic Association

26th Annual Neighborhood Garage and Yard Sale Saturday, May 14, 2011, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - rain or shine

All West Walker residents are invited to participate in our
26th Annual Garage and Yard Sale

Cost to participate is \$5 for WWCA members and \$10 for non-members.
Your \$5 or \$10 helps pay the cost of advertising and printing.

The sale is advertised in the following newspapers and online sites:
Chicago Tribune • Red Eye • Hoy • Reader • Reader On-Line • Craigslist

Signs are posted on the main perimeter streets.

3,000 maps indicating the location of each participating garage or yard
are distributed the week of the sale.

Under **current city ordinance**, every home having a garage or yard sale must
display a **Garage Sale Permit**, which must be acquired from the alderman's
office. The Garage and Yard Sale Committee will file the applications
and obtain the permits for all paid participants. **Your permit will be delivered
to your address the Friday before the sale. (There will be NO confirmation
given before that.)**

Return the form below to have your address listed as a participant in the sale,
along with your application fee by May 8, 2011.

Or sign up on the WWCA website at <http://www.westwalker.org>.

For further information call Bob Crowley at 773.267.1921.

WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION GARAGE AND YARD SALE

Saturday, May 14, 2011

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

I am a member of the West Walker Civic Association. Enclosed is my **\$5** participation fee.

I am **not now a member** of the West Walker Civic Association but want to join. Enclosed is my
\$20 participation fee. Please credit \$15 toward my WWCA dues for 2011-2012.

I am **not** a member of the West Walker Civic Association. Enclosed is my **\$10** participation fee.

Please make your check payable to: WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Mail or drop off your form and payment to: Bob Crowley, 4125 N. Harding Ave, Chicago, IL 60618