



WEST WALKER WIRE

JANUARY 2013

www.westwalker.org

Hands to Help Caroling Night a Success!

Good tidings and cheer were brought to the Old Irving Park neighborhood by festive Christmas carolers on Monday night December 17th. Volunteers caroled door to door raising funds for Hands to Help, a group that assists the homeless and others in crisis right here in our neighborhood.

A special thanks to the many volunteers: Build On teens from Schurz High School, Brownies from St. Edward's, teens and adults from St. Viator's, families and adults from St. John's and United Methodist, and many others from the Old Irving Park community. Thanks to the generosity of our community, over \$1300 was collected!

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Young people from all over the neighborhood shared their voices in caroling to raise funds for Hands to Help Ministries!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mon., Jan. 14 • 6:30 p.m.

Alderman Laurino's
Property Tax Appeal Seminar
Salvation Army Church Gymnasium,
5040 N. Pulaski

Wed., Jan. 16 • 7 - 8 p.m.

CAPS Meeting, Beat 1723
17th District Community Room
4650 N. Pualski

Sat., Jan. 19 • 6:00 p.m.

Adults-Only Belding PTA Social Night
Candle Lite Bowling & Dinner
Mont Claire Lanes, 2957 N. Harlem Ave.

Wed., Jan 23 • 5:50 p.m.

Belding School Family Science Night
4257 N. Tripp

Sat., Jan. 26 • 2 - 4 p.m.

St. Viator School Open House
4140 W. Addison

Sun. Jan. 27 • 10:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

St. Edward's School Open House
Buckley Hall, 4447 N. Lowell

Sun., Feb. 3 • 4:00 -11:00 p.m.

St. Edward's Super Bowl Party
Gymnasium, 4447 N. Lowell

Tues., Feb. 12 • 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Irving Park Lutheran Church's
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Gymnasium, 4057 N. Harding

See page 11 for more events near
the West Walker Area!

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

WITHIN THE WIRE...

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Dear Neighbor,

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A GREETING and hopes of a Happy New Year to all. The New Year is often a time of reflection as well as a time to imagine self-improvement and envision a better future and world.

Resolutions are often viewed as a once a year activity. But personal experience (as well as some research) shows that resolve isn't really influenced by the calendar.

We should all strive to take the time to identify things that will make our lives, or the lives of those around us, a little better. It doesn't have to be earth-shaking or life-changing. It doesn't have to start on January 1. It may not even become apparent until spring or summer. But when you find yourself saying "wouldn't it be nice if..." Take the time to see if there is some little thing you could do to nudge things in a better direction.

Everyone sees things differently, and not everyone will act to make the same change. But a lot of people making many little improvements will make things better for everyone.

Here are a few resolutions I hope to see:

- Commit random acts of kindness.
- Hold that door.
- Use "Please" and "Thank You" more often.
- Drive slower.
- Give a little back.
- Pick up some rubbish; even if it's not yours.
- Make eye contact.
- Say "Hello" to people – neighbors and strangers.
- Take better care of yourself.
- Walk, don't drive.
- Vote.
- Help those less fortunate.
- Put down the cell phone.
- Think Green.
- Figure out your new Ward and get on the Alderman's e-mail blast.

There are hundreds of ways to make our lives and Neighborhood a richer and better experience. Find one that's right for you, and we will all benefit.

Mike Webber,
President, Pro Tem
West Walker Civic Association

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 100 years of service
to the West Walker Community**

2011-2012 OFFICERS

President Pro Tem Mike Webber
773.539.8346

Vice President Davor Engel
773.202.1010
dengel@studiode.com

Secretary Vacant

Treasurer Jack Prikos

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER
Dorie Westmeyer

CAPS COORDINATOR
Jane Nagle

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

WEST WALKER CARRIER STAFF

Carol, Augie, and Gabie Barry

Glenda Begecke

Judy Cicero

Connie Engel

Patti Freko

The Gettings

Peg Klimek

John & Betsy Minor

Mark Pascale

Tricia Ramirez & Mike Hawlitzky

Melanie Reschke

Pat & Marianne Turk

Max & Charlie Webber

EDITOR

Lee Samsami Stein

*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](mailto:WWWire@solsticepr.com)*

39th Ward Report



Dear Neighbor,

I hope everyone in the West Walker community had a very Happy Holiday Season. After the celebrations are over, you can recycle your Christmas tree at North Park Village, 5801 N. Pulaski, Jan. 5-18, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The trees will

be chipped and made into mulch, which will be available for residents to pick up beginning Friday, Jan. 11, while supplies last. Please remove all ornaments, lights and stands before dropping off your tree. Decorations, tree lights, wreaths, garlands or household recyclable materials will not be accepted.

Please join me and Commissioner Michael Cabonargi on Monday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m., for my annual Property Tax Appeal Seminar, at the Salvation Army Church Gymnasium, 5040 N. Pulaski. Staff from the Cook County Board of Review will help you appeal the assessment on your home to keep your property taxes as low as possible.

The event is also being sponsored by State Representatives John D'Amico and Deb Mell, and Cook County Commissioners Bridget Gainer and John Fritchey. Parking will be available.

We had some staff departures recently, both in my Ward Office and in the 17th District. Police Commander Melissa Staples has moved on to the 12th District and Jose G. Ramirez has been assigned as Commander of the 17th District. Commander Ramirez has had a stellar career with the Chicago Police Department, most recently serving with the Organized Crime Division. We welcome Commander Ramirez to the District and wish Commander Staples the best of luck in her new position.

I've been fortunate to have few staff changes in my tenure as Alderman. However, after working 10 years in my office, Patrick Molloy has accepted a new position. I'm sure many West Walker residents worked with Pat on infrastructure and capital projects over the years. Pat will certainly be missed, and we wish him all the best in his new endeavor.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact my public service office at 773-736-5594 or e-mail us at Ward39@cityofchicago.org.

Sincerely,
Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward

Volunteer, Mentor, Tutor or Coach at the YMCA

At the Irving Park Y, a volunteer's time and talent can go a long way to help a child, mentor a teen or provide support for families. Volunteers come from all walks of life but they share a common trait of wanting to help others. Examples of volunteer opportunities include:

- Mentor or tutor a child
- Teach computer skills
- Coordinate a group project
- Coach a youth sports team
- Serve as a front desk greeter
- Referee a youth sports game
- Assist with the maintenance/landscaping
- Serve as a special event committee member
- Serve as an administrative or clerical assistant
- Assist with an activity during a Family Night Celebration

For more information on how you can become a volunteer, contact Lara Pacelt, Irving Park YMCA Senior Program Director, 773-326-2623. Irving Park YMCA is located at 4251 W. Irving Park Road.

Resolve to pamper yourself
this new year with
January's amazing specials!!!

~Complimentary custom conditioning
shine treatment with a haircut!~

~Your skin is thirsty! Quench it with our
dark hot cocoa facial! \$20 off!~

~Hot stone pedicure with a no-chip
manicure, only \$60! 20% off!!!~

The Cat's Meow Beauty

4221 N. Elston Avenue * thecatmeowbeauty.com * 773.664.8065

News from Irving Park Community Food Pantry

By Craig Shutt

FDC Expands Pantry Grant for 2013

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry is pleased to announce that the FDC Foundation has approved a grant to the Pantry for its Fresh Produce for Better Health Initiative and its client-services program. The grant, for \$30,000, represents a doubling of the funds we received last year, which in turn were higher than the previous year.

The grant will fund our purchases of fresh produce to distribute each week to our clients and the resources and activities of Community Resources Coordinator Belma Torres for the coming year.

We are grateful to FDC for giving us such generous support and especially board member Susan Patke for her efforts on our behalf. Special thanks also to volunteer Gloria Price for preparing our proposal and for her efforts to foster a close relationship with the foundation.

Thanks to all of the community organizations, groups and individuals who have conducted food drives and taken monetary collections for us during the holiday



45th Ward Alderman John Arena volunteered at the Pantry's annual Holiday distribution on December 19th, making up food bags in the three- to four-person line, along with Nick Calderone (right) and others. Thanks to everyone who took time to help!
Photo by Craig Shutt

season! In addition to the many we thanked last month, these groups have helped with food drives: Belding Elementary School (4257 N. Tripp Ave.), Bankrate (222 W. Adams St.), Community Savings Bank (4801 W. Belmont Ave.), Kindred Hospital (2544 W. Montrose Ave.) and Terraces of Old Irving Park.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Emergency 911

Non-Emergency 311
(Always request a tracking number)

17th Police District 312.744.8346
Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting: third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. at 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski Road

17th District CAPS Phone 312.742.4410
CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org

39th Ward 773.736.5594
Alderman Margaret Laurino ward39@cityofchicago.org
4404 W. Lawrence Ave. www.aldermanlaurino.com

Constituent night: Mondays, 6-8 p.m.
(Call ahead. Meet Alderman Laurino to discuss Ward concerns.)

39th Ward Streets and Sanitation 312.744.8163

33rd Ward 773.478.8040
Alderman Richard Mell rmell@cityofchicago.org
3649 N. Kedzie Ave. www.33rdward.org

33rd Ward Advisory Council: third Thursday of each month at Horner Park Fieldhouse, 2741 W. Montrose Ave., 7 p.m.
(Discuss your issues with the advisory council)

33rd Ward Streets and Sanitation 312.744.1451

40th District State Representative 773.267.2880
Deb Mell

20th District State Senator 773.283.7000
Iris Y. Martinez

5th Congressional District 773.267.5926
Mike Quigley

Independence Branch, Chicago Public Library
3548 W. Irving Park Road 312.744.0900

Independence Park, Chicago Park District
3945 N. Springfield Ave. 773.478.3538

Graffiti Removal Hotline 312.744.1234
(Always request a tracking number)

Neighborhood Relations 312.744.3774

Poison Control Center 800.942.5969

Illegal Businesses, City Department of Revenue 312.747.5317

www.cityofchicago.org All city departments

www.cookcountyassessor.com Property assessments

www.cookcountytreasurer.com Property taxes

www.legis.state.il.us Check pending state legislation



Thanks also to Lakeview Pantry for their donation of 20 cases of chocolate candy, which were included in our holiday distribution, and to Orbitz Travel for donating three boxes of personal-care items. We also thank the BuildOn students at Schurz High School (3601 N. Milwaukee Ave.) for distributing 150 bagged lunches to our clients during our November 28th distribution.

A special thank you goes to Roger Torback and Mount Olive Church (3850 N. Tripp Ave.) for collecting more than 1,000 food items and more than \$3,000 in their annual November community canvas. We'd also like to thank Irving Park Family Theater, which donated the proceeds from their debut performance in December at the Irving Park United Methodist Church (3801 N. Keeler Ave.)

We also want to thank everyone who donated toys to our Toy Room for our holiday distribution in December. Special thanks to the Old Irving Park Association for hosting a toy collection during its holiday dinner and to Unique Insurance (4245 N. Knox Ave.), which provided employees with money to purchase toys and socks for us.

Thanks also to our local churches (Irving Park United Methodist Church, Irving Park Baptist Church and Mount Olive Church) for serving as community collection points for toy donations. Special thanks to Irving Park Lutheran Church for serving as a collection point and for once again allowing us to store and sort toys at their church. And thanks to volunteers Vicci Rodgers and Barb Cohn for overseeing the collection and distribution.

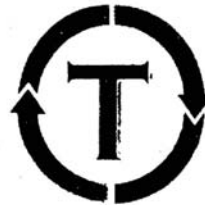
Congratulations to Community Resources Coordinator Belma Torres on her election as secretary for the Northside Anti-Hunger Network. She follows Pantry Executive Director John Psiharis in a leadership position with the group, as his term as co-president ended in November.

In November, the Pantry served 1,896 people in 628 households, adding 58 households with 111 people. More than 300 households also received pet food through the Pantry's Pet Food Corner. In addition, 12 households with 19 people applied for SNAP benefits on-site. Our homebound-delivery program currently is making monthly deliveries to 16 households. Thanks to Pat Eisenhart for coordinating this program and to our group of volunteers who make these deliveries to help us reach some who cannot come into the pantry.

We appreciate all of your donations and efforts on our behalf. With your help, we continue to live up to our motto of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."



Janeen Frank Cloutier (left) and Kris O'Malley pack up four boxes of food donations collected during the second annual Mistletoe Market, held by the St. Viator Parents Association in December at the school's gymnasium. Photo by Craig Shutt



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St. Edward's School

You are invited! On Sunday, January 27th from 10:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., St. Ed's holds its annual Open House prospective and

current families alike. Beginning in Buckley Hall, 4447 N. Lowell, parents and children are invited to meet current parents, teachers and our principal and learn more about St. Ed's academic, athletic and fine arts programs. Take a tour of the school, hear our renowned orchestra and meet members of our community. For more information, please email rsvp@stedwardschool.com. Registrations for new families will be accepted beginning January 27th for the 2013-14 school year. If you'd like to see our school in action, please visit us on Wednesday, January 30th from 9-11 a.m. Tours begin at our main school building, 4343 W. Sunnyside. We look forward to seeing you!

Every year, St. Edward School presents a distinguished alumni award at the start of Catholic Schools' week. This year, we are pleased to announce the recognition of 12 alumni including the following teachers: Kelly Depa (Pre-K), Sandy Holbach (Kindergarten), Kathy Chun (Kindergarten), Jan Wawrzyniak (1st Grade), Anna Panico (2nd Grade), Barbara Carabio (4th Grade), David Chun (5th Grade), Sister Adele Human (Spanish Teacher/Social Work), Tracy Leyden (Pre-K Aide) and Joan Krohn (Physical Education Coordinator). Also being recognized are Debbie Cantafio (Food Service Program Bookkeeper) and Mike Kelly (Athletic Director). We thank these alumni for their continued dedication to St. Edward School. The award will be presented at 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 27th.

Who will be in the Super Bowl this year? Come cheer on your favorite team at our annual Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 3rd. Held in our gym, 4447 N. Lowell, this event is the athletic department's largest fundraiser and allows us to keep our fees lower than any other team against whom we compete. Tickets are \$20 for all you can eat, and \$40 for all you can eat with adult beverages (from 4-11 PM). Raffle Tickets are also available for one 46" flat screen TVs at a cost of \$5 per entry or books of 5 for \$20. For more information, please email Athletic Director Mike Kelly at CoachKelly75@yahoo.com or call Coach Kelly at 773-983-0361.

What would you do with \$10,000? Want to get away to Las Vegas? Tired of paying for gas; how about a \$500 gas card? These are the prizes for this year's Big Red

Raffle! \$100 enters you for a chance to win one of those fabulous prizes! Only 500 tickets will be sold. Interested? Please contact Chris Lewis at MOSES@stedwardschool.com. The drawing will be held on Saturday, March 9th and you need not be present to win.

Congratulations to our 1st and 2nd grade chess scholars who participated in the Burr Ridge tournament on Saturday, December 1st! We had 4 kids in the top 20! Chess Scholars starts again in January and our kids are excited to play.

Student Council at St. Ed's is open to all students in grades 4 - 8. One of the projects Student Council has worked on this year is making holiday cards for Hines Veterans Hospital. They also decorated bags for Fisher House which is a residence on the property close to the hospital where vets' families can stay while their loved one is in the hospital, similar to Ronald McDonald House. The bags will hold toiletries. Student Council collected funds to purchase small necessities the families need while staying there.

We give your child so much more than just a seat in a classroom. For over 100 years, St. Edward School has provided a Catholic education to children from three-year old pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. We have an average student-teacher ratio of 18:1, and feature an extensive music program as well as art, gym, sports, chess, and Spanish at all grade levels. Our students matriculate to highly selective CPS and Catholic schools in Chicagoland. The School is located at 4343 W. Sunnyside. For more information on the School call 773-736-9133, or by visiting www.stedwardschool.com.

St. Viator School

In response to the growing needs of our current and prospective families, St. Viator Elementary School is again expanding our 3 year-old preschool program to include a full-day, full-time option beginning in the upcoming 2013-2014 school year. Starting in August, PreK-3 options will be: 3 days/week (M-W-F), with Half-day 7:50-11:00 a.m. or Full-day 7:50 a.m.-2:40 p.m. option, OR 5 days/week (M-F), with Half-day 7:50-11:00 a.m. or Full-day 7:50 a.m.-2:40 p.m. option.

Open House

St. Viator Elementary School is hosting an Open House on Saturday, January 26th from 2 - 4 p.m. at 4140 W. Addison. Progressive and dynamic, St. Viator is dedicated to providing quality education focused on developing the whole child intellectually, spiritually and

physically through a supportive partnership between faculty and parents. Our approach instills confidence, desire for knowledge, respect for all, and provides students a foundation for success. Our strong academic curriculum includes Super Kids Reading Program, Rosetta Stone World Languages, dedicated Science Lab, Art Zone, Junior Great Books, Peacebuilders, and the latest technology throughout the school. St. Viator - 110 Years of Faith in Education! Call 773-545-2173 or visit www.stviatorchicago.org

CICS-Irving Park School

Hail and Farewell CICS-Irving Park welcomes our new Director, Mrs. Karin Breo. She arrives from her previous post as the Director of Special Programs for Distinctive Schools, and has been with CICS for fourteen years. Distinctive Schools will assume full management responsibilities for our school starting July, 2013. We thank our outgoing Director, Ms. Janet Heiman, for her many years of tireless leadership, and wish her continued success in her career.

Hoops Scoops CICS-IP basketball season is starting in January! In addition to our varsity boys and girls squads, this is the first year we have junior varsity teams. Come see our boys play on Jan. 16 & 30, and the girls on Jan. 22 & 31. Junior Varsity games start at 4:30 p.m., varsity at 5:30 p.m. We also welcome the community to our first Staff vs. Student Basketball Game Feb 1st at 4:30 p.m.

Smoque-in Good BBQ

We wish to give a hearty "Thank You!" to Barry Sorkin and the staff at Smoque BBQ for providing food for our annual Teachers' Luncheon. The teachers enjoyed their fabulous offerings, and you can too! Please visit Smoque BBQ at 3800 N. Pulaski for the best BBQ in the city!

Three Cheers! Along with launching our first JV basketball and cross-country track teams this year, we are also fielding our first cheerleading squad. We look forward to their routines taking our school spirit to a whole new level!

Disney II Magnet School

We wish everyone in the Irving Park community a happy, healthy and peaceful 2013. As always, the children, staff, and families at Disney II appreciate the unending support and good will the community offers. We are grateful for this supportive relationship and will continuously strive to be good neighbors and stewards of this wonderful community. Strong, successful schools and businesses create healthy, safe communities.

December was a month of musical magic around the halls of Disney II. Led by music teacher Mr. Barnhart, students in grades pre-k through 6 performed several holiday shows on December 20th. Families enjoyed hearing the children sing tunes from The Nutcracker, play Orff instruments, recorders, and more unique, ethnic tunes from the 18th century. New this year, the school band members demonstrated their skills on flutes, trumpets, clarinets, saxophones, and horns. The day was a true display of artistic expression and enjoyment of the holidays.

Congratulations to the students who took part in the musical performance, "Broadway Wishes" held at the Irving Park United Methodist Church. They were delighted to bring holiday cheer to the community.

The Disney II PTA has enjoyed an active and successful 1st semester with the largest PTA membership (217) in the history of Disney II Magnet School. PTA organized such activities as Parent Coffees, Movie Nights, and Family Dine-In Night at La Villa restaurant. Thank you to the PTA for supporting the Irving Park Food Pantry by organizing a holiday food drive.

Finally, 2012 ended on a very positive note with the Chicago Public School Board of Education announcing its approval for the Disney II Expansion. In the fall of 2013, Disney II Elementary School will extend its current programs/grade levels beyond grade 8. In essence, this decision will allow for 250 new 9th grade students to begin high school at Disney II. This is an additional, exciting option for families in the community seeking high quality education beyond the elementary school years.

Belding School

Family Science Night-Wednesday, January 23

Parents and students are invited for a special night of Hands-On Science at Belding on January 23rd. The evening will include many opportunities to participate in laboratory science and for young scientists to try some experiments. Here's the schedule for the evening: 5:50 p.m. - Arrive at Belding and sign up for three labs. You must have a ticket for each lab activity you want to attend. Three consecutive 20-minute labs will begin at 6 p.m.

Adult only PTA Social Night

Join us for a "Parents Only" Social Event. Saturday, January 19 at 6 p.m. at Mont Claire Lanes. Come join us for a night of Candle Lite Bowling and dinner! \$50.00 per Couple. Belding School is located at 4257 N. Tripp. For more information, visit our website at bbeldingelementary.com or call 773-534-3590.

**Breakfast
& Lunch**

Pancakes
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1/4-page ad \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(3.7" wide x 5" high)</i>	\$80 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$160 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$260 <input type="checkbox"/>	
1/2-page ad \$60 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(7.5" wide x 5" high)</i>	\$165 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$330 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$520 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Full-page ad \$120 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(8" wide x 10" high)</i>	\$330 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$660 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,050 <input type="checkbox"/>	

Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact E-Mail: _____

- 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.

SEND ALL AD COPY AND PAYMENTS (AND ANY AD QUESTIONS) TO:
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It's Membership Renewal Time!

WWCA MEMBERSHIP runs May 1 through April 30 annually. Your dues help fund a variety of items:

- Ten issues per year of the *West Walker Wire*, delivered to residences and businesses in West Walker, free of charge.
- The annual community garage sale.

- Area non-profit groups: Irving Park Community Food Pantry, Independence Park, and Independence Library.
- E-mail updates on neighborhood events and area crime.
- Free special events, like the Halloween Party and Fall Festival and 4th of July celebration at Independence Park.

Bring your 2012-2013 dues to our next WWCA meeting or mail in the application below.

WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yearly Membership Dues: Effective May 1, 2012 through April 30, 2013

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

Local Church News

Friends and Families Eat Pancakes Together!

Join us for Irving Park Lutheran Church's 24th Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Bake Sale! The event will be on Tuesday, February 12th, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gymnasium on 4057 N. Harding. Admission is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 12 years and under. Tickets also available at the door. We are raising money for the 2013 Magic Mushroom Summer Program! (Additional Funding is applied for through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans). In addition, registrations for the 2013 Magic Mushroom Summer Program will be accepted, so sign up and eat!

We will serve Swedish & regular pancakes, lingonberries, apple topping, syrup, sausages and beverages. Don't forget about the delicious goodies at our Bake Sale table! For supper tickets, or questions about Magic Mushroom, contact the church office at 773-267-1667 or email leesstein@gmail.com today -- We look forward to dining with you!

St. John's Episcopal Church Receives 2012 National Clergy Renewal Grant

St. John's Episcopal Church has received a grant of \$35,600 to enable its minister, The Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer, to participate in the 2012 National Clergy Renewal Program funded by the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. It is one of 147 congregations across the country that will support their ministers in the program, which allows pastors to step back from their busy lives and renew their spirits for the benefit of their ongoing ministries.

Now in its 13th year, the program invites Christian congregations and ministers to plan a period of intentional reflection and renewal. It gives ministers time to take a break from their daily obligations and gain the fresh perspective and renewed energy that a carefully considered "sabbath time" of travel, study, rest and prayer can provide.

Through this program, Christian congregations apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to support a renewal program for their pastors. Working with their congregations, the ministers design their renewal programs to fit their own needs and aspirations. Pastors are encouraged to include their families in the renewal activities. Up to \$15,000 of the grant may be used for the congregation to pay for interim pastoral leadership while the pastor is away, as well as for renewal activities within the congregation.

Continued on page 10

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Continued from page 9

1,745 congregations have participated in the clergy renewal program since it began in 2000, including the 147 congregations in this round that received grants totaling nearly \$6.5 million.

During the renewal period the congregation will be planning an expansion of the music program. The grant will include money for concerts and special music for worship services. During the same period (May – August) their Rector (pastor) will be focusing on creative renewal activities, both alone and with her family. The rector will go on a month long retreat at the Society of St. John the Evangelist (an Episcopal monastery in Boston), study creative writing at the Iowa Writer’s Workshop, and with her family attend cultural programming in Chautauqua, NY, and visit a Benedictine convent in France. Wagner Sherer is hoping that some of her creative output will include new hymns. During the sabbatical the congregation will be led by lay leaders, their seminarian, and a local priest who will supply for worship services.

“Time and time again we hear that these renewal experiences are transformative for pastors, their families and their congregations,” said N. Clay Robbins, the Endowment’s president and CEO. “We intend for this program to enable pastors to live for a while at a different pace and in a new environment, in Sabbath time and space. Many pastors and their families return with a rich store of shared memories, having had large blocks of unbroken time together, uninterrupted by the 24-hour-a-day routine of the ministry.

“The wealth of imagination unleashed by this program is truly wonderful to see,” he said. “We can think of no better way to honor these hardworking, faithful men and women than to help them experience personal growth and spiritual renewal in ways that they themselves design and find meaningful.”

Continued from page 1

Look for more pics and info at the Hands to Help Facebook page. Donations can still be made at www.handstohelpministries.org

Hands to Help works to establish a relationship with people and after assessing needs, seeks to connect people with housing and other services. If you see a person in need, please call the Hands to Help hotline at 773-599-9370 and let us know the time and place you encountered the person.

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To all the people you can,
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- John Wesley



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10 A.M. (ENGLISH) - Katherine Paisley, lead pastor
NOON (SPANISH) - Cecilia Obret, mission pastor
Jonathan Braun - director of music
Hope Reyes - director of children & family ministries

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Nearby Neighborhood News

Support Community Gardens near and far!

The beautification at the Addison & Avondale corner continues! Volunteer or help fund the garden adjacent to Rafael Lopez's striking mural. Currently, the space contains six planter boxes, many filled with plants donated by Christy Webber and the Farmer's Market Garden Center. This spring, the area transformed into an "in-ground" garden composed of colorful, hardy native plants, and a paved path with engraved bricks. See your name engraved in brick as a lasting testament to your support of the garden! Take advantage of special pricing! Purchase your engraved 4"x8" brick(s) **before January 15th**. Individuals/non-profits can purchase for only \$50! Businesses' price is \$100 per brick. Email AACommunityGarden@gmail.com or call 773-800-1262 to order. Engraved bricks make excellent gifts!

Avondale Social January 12th At Lost Arts Colony, on Saturday, January 12th, from 5 to 10 p.m. Enjoy live music, poetry, and kids' activities (5-7 p.m.) while visiting local artists' studios. 2630 W. Fletcher.

Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting EZ Pawn Shop (3318 N. Milwaukee). Meeting will be held on Friday, January 18th at 9 a.m. at 121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 200.

Portage Park Farmers Markets Visit the farmers market located at the Portage Theater on 4050 N. Milwaukee. Markets are open 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 20th, and Sundays February 3rd and 17th.

Winter Gardening Series at Kilbourn Park Kilbourn Park hosts monthly garden events on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

On Saturday, January 26th, come to the Organic Gardening Series and learn everything you need to grow plants organically. Fee is \$10.

On Saturday, February 9th, Garden Buddies offers hands on activities in our garden, greenhouse, and fieldhouse. Garden Buddies is perfect for families with kids aged 2-8. Fee is \$5. Kilbourn Park is located at 3501 N. Kilbourn Ave. For information, call 773-685-3351.

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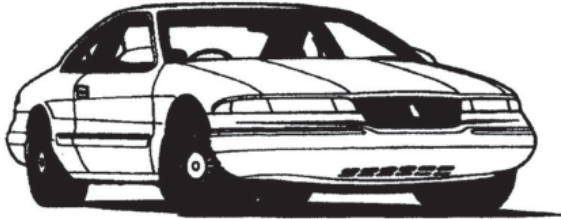
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