

# WEST WALKER WIRE

DECEMBER 2014

[www.westwalker.org](http://www.westwalker.org)

## Carolers Sought to Help the Homeless

A local social service agency that helps the homeless and others in crisis seeks singers with good, bad or fun voices for a December 15th neighborhood caroling event.

Hands To Help Ministries invites any individuals or small groups who enjoy singing to join us at 6:30 - 9 p.m., Monday, December 15th, at Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Rd. From there, we will break up into small teams to carol door to door.

We are especially asking church choirs, youth groups and scout troops to come out to help make this event a success. Please pass this information along if you have any contacts among those groups.

Carolers generally stay out for about two hours of warming people's hearts through song. After caroling, everyone will regroup at Irving Park Baptist Church for cookies, cake and hot chocolate. Song sheets will be provided but it's a good idea to bring a flashlight.

Through the support of community donations, Hands To Help, an interfaith group of local congregations, provides emergency funding to help people get off the street or remain housed. The caroling event is in its fifth year. For more information about Hands To Help, visit [www.handstohelpministries.org](http://www.handstohelpministries.org) or call 773-599-9370.



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Fri. & Sat., Dec. 5-6 • 7:00 p.m.**  
*A Broadway Christmas*  
Irving Park United Methodist Church  
3801 N. Keeler

**Sat., Dec. 6 • 7:00 p.m.**  
*The Gift of the Magi*  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
3857 N. Kostner

**Fri.-Sun., Dec. 5-7**  
St. Viator Winterfest 2014  
4140 West Addison Street  
*See page 8 for details*

**Sun., Dec. 7 • 3:00 p.m.**  
IPFAC Presents Sing-Along-Messiah  
Irving Park Lutheran Church  
4100 N. Harding

**Wed., Dec. 10 • 6-7:30 p.m.**  
Schurz Winter Choral Concert  
Schurz HS Library, 3601 N. Milwaukee

**Thur., Dec. 11 • 6:00-7:30 p.m.**  
Schurz Band/Orchestra Winter Concert  
Schurz Auditorium, 3601 N. Milwaukee

**Mon. Dec. 15 • 6:30 p.m.**  
Hands to Help Ministries Caroling Event  
Irving Park Baptist Church  
4401 W. Irving Park Rd.

**Wed., Dec. 17 • 7:00 p.m.**  
CAPS Meeting Beat 1723  
4650 N. Pulaski, Community Room

**Thur., Dec. 18 • 6:30 p.m.**  
Disney II HS Winter Concert  
Disney II Magnet High School  
3900 N. Lawndale

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

# Dear Neighbor,

**gëzuar Krishtlindja Shnorhavor Surb tsnund**

*veselâ koleđâ* shèng dàn kuài lè SELAMAT NATAL

**Nadelek lowen Sretan Božić God Jul**

*veselê Vánoce* **glædelig jul**

**vrolijk Kerstfeest Joyeux Noël Gílotsavt, Shobas**

fröhliche Weihnachten **Mừng Chúa Giáng Sinh**

**hala christougenna hag molad saméa'h**

KRISMAS KI SUBHKAMNA boldog karácsonyt

*Buon Natale* **souhsaan wan Christmas**

**merii kúrisumasu** SEUN-TAN CHU-KA-HAE-YO

Noela we píroz be **srecan božic** priecīgus Ziemassvētkus

SU KALĒDOMIS **Wesołych Świąt** un Crăciun fericit

VESELE VIANOCE **FELIZ NAVIDAD**

No matter how you say it, have a wonderful Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Mike Webber  
President Pro Tem, WCCA

## The Grinch is Coming Back!

Come join Filament Theatre Ensemble for Filament Theatre's 3rd Annual Holiday Special on **Saturday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m.** Ticket prices are \$15 for kids and \$35 for adults. Call the box office at 773-270-1660 to purchase tickets, they're going fast!

Help us celebrate our first full season in our new home with treats, drinks, live music, and Chicago's newest and happiest holiday tradition, a screening of **A Charlie Brown Christmas** and **How the Grinch Stole Christmas**, brought to life by some of our favorite actors and musicians. You won't want to miss this wonderful night of friends, music, and revelry! Doors open at 6:30 p.m., performances begin at 7:00 p.m. Bring the whole family! All money raised will go to help Filament bring you another exciting season of theater and gatherings in Portage Park. Filament Theater is located at 4041 N. Milwaukee Avenue.



## 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**

### 2013-2014 OFFICERS

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Send crime concerns to Nicole Price  
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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](mailto:west_walker_wire@yahoo.com).**

*Please include a phone number in case  
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and content.*

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## What Does the Independence Park Library Mean to You?

We are not on the list for a new library! Please help us advocate for a new Independence Library by sending letters to our elected officials. This is our 100th year in a rented facility. Send letters to both: Alderman Rey Colon, 35th Ward Service Office, 2710 N. Sawyer Ave., Chicago, IL 60647 (Email: ward35@cityofchicago.org) AND State Representative Jaime M. Andrade, Jr. (D), 40th District, 3657 N. Kedzie Chicago, IL 60618 (Email: staterep40@gmail.com).

## Tuesday Night Chair Yoga Class

Explore poses that can improve posture, flexibility, strength and breathing. Therapeutic for those sitting at a desk or computer all day. Learn meditation techniques which will create calmness and reduce stress. When: Tuesday, December 9 & 16 at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Irving Park United Methodist Church, 3801 N. Keeler, in the Bacmeister Room. Cost is \$10 per class for IPUC members, \$12 for non-members.

## New Coffeehouse Provides Fresh Look at Everyday Images

Chicago-Northwest side neighbor/photographer Frank Styburski will be on hand Saturday, December 6th, to meet fellow art lovers as part of a reception at Perkolator. Part of a six-week showcase of Styburski's work at the recently opened coffeehouse, the reception will give patrons a chance to reevaluate intriguing images that sometimes get lost amid the clutter of busy environments. Styburski's work is on display now through December 31st. The reception will be Saturday, December 6th, from 2 to 4 p.m. Perkolator is located at 6032 W. Irving Park Rd. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of photographs at the show will benefit O. A. Thorp Scholastic Academy. The exhibit is a collaboration between Perkolator and Northwest Arts Connection (NAC). For more about Frank Styburski, visit [www.frankstyburski.com](http://www.frankstyburski.com) or email him at [fstyburski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fstyburski@sbcglobal.net). For more about Perkolator, call 773-853-2261 or visit them on Facebook. For more information about Northwest Arts Connection (NAC), contact Marlena Ascher at 773-481-1749.

## REAL ESTATE NEWS



By Dorie Westmeyer  
Realtor®, MBA, ADPR

*Your Neighborhood Realtor!*

### 2014 HOME SALES END STRONG!

2014 was a good year for real estate in Chicago. Although the number of home sales was down versus last year, the median sale price in Chicago was up 8.9% compared to 6% for Illinois. That's a healthy gain.

Here are a few fun facts about homebuyers.

- 27% were cash buyers; down from 30% last year. 61% of those buyers were international buyers.
- 29% were first time buyers.
- 15% were investors, down from 19% last year. Home prices are up so investors are getting priced out.
- 13% of buyers relocated to their new home.
- 9% of sales were distressed sales – either a short sale or foreclosure. Foreclosures typically sell for 15% less than a traditional sale and short sales sell for 10% less. Two years ago distressed were 25% of all sales. Just another sign the market is getting stronger.

“Illinois is seeing sales lift as we close out the year, a sign that despite the onset of winter, buyers are still very much interested in making a big ticket purchase,” said IAR President Jim Kinney.

I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

If you, or someone you know, is looking to buy or thinking of selling, please contact me. I've lived here for 19 years and I love our neighborhood. Together we will get top dollar for your home.

Sources: RCI Report 2014; MLS; Illinois Association of Realtors

**Call Dorie, your Neighborhood Realtor 847-989-4870.  
You'll get the right price and the right advice.**



Dorie@DorieWestmeyer.com 847-989-4870 (cell)

## Local Church News

### Irving Park Lutheran Church

3938 West Belle Plaine, 773-267-1666

All are welcome to our Advent and Christmas worship services! Our Sunday services begin at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14th - Children's Christmas Play, followed by the annual Bake Sale. Sunday, Dec. 21st will be our Lessons & Carols worship service. Christmas Eve Service is at 10:30 p.m. and Christmas Day Service is at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Dec. 28th is the 1st Sunday of Christmas Service, Sunday Jan. 4th is the 2nd Sunday of Christmas Service, followed by Taking Down the Greens

**Sunday Adult Bible Study:** *Advent-The Church in Waiting* How can we be a Church in Waiting? Come to Victory Hall Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 a.m. for an Advent-focused Bible Study. For more information, contact Cindy Kuhn at [cindy.kuhn@comcast.net](mailto:cindy.kuhn@comcast.net).

**Parenting Group:** As we read *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* by Dr. Wendy Mogel, we've discussed the importance of imbuing responsibility and accountability in our children, in addition to (and as part of) fostering their emotional well-being. "Humans are the only creatures that devote energy to making their offspring happy. The rest of the animal kingdom is devoted to fostering competence to survive in the world," Mogel notes. "Children deserve more than our love and devotion. They deserve to be taught how to fend for themselves and eventually contribute to society." Join us for conversations about these and other aspects of parenting, Sundays at 9:30-10:15 a.m. in the Chapel.

### Irving Park United Methodist Church

3801 N Keeler, 773-283-6262

**A Broadway Christmas** performances are Friday and Saturday, December 5-6 at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy the talents of our neighborhood children, under the direction of Jonathan Braun and Becky Hines, in a revue of Christmas music from a variety of Broadway shows, and support the Irving Park Food Pantry and the arts programs of Irving Park United Methodist Church. Tickets are available online or at the door. Prices are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 6 and over. Children under age 6 are free. Performances will be at Irving Park United Methodist Church.

"HOPE: The Heart of Christmas" is our theme for Advent, and the focus for all of our services, including the Children's Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 21 at 10:00 a.m. This pageant is open to all neighborhood children, and there is one rehearsal on Saturday, December 20 at 4:00 p.m. There are both reading and

non-reading parts so children age 3 and up can take part. Our pageant will include stories of hope from the scriptures that are the back story to the birth of Jesus.

Participate in service opportunities, part of the HOPE, which are open to everyone. Saturday, December 6 is "Feed My Starving Children." Registration is required. Call 773-283-6262 to register. We will pack meals that will feed starving children across the globe. Heifer International is our Christmas charity for this year. Our children will be saving in their families to provide animals for people in poverty, and online contributions may be made through the church website at [irvingparkumc.com](http://irvingparkumc.com). Through giving animals, Heifer changes lives and the gifts are passed on to change communities.

Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m. is accessible to all. Special music, candlelighting, and favorite carols combine with the wonder of the Christmas story in a dramatic service that may become your favorite part of the Christmas celebration. Carols and Stories of Hope, on December 28 at 10:00 a.m., is a variation of the traditional lessons and carols service to share modern stories of hope from around the world.

### St. John's Episcopal Church

3857 North Kostner, 773-725-9026

St. John's Church presents **The Gift of the Magi** on Saturday, December 6th at 7 p.m. Holiday Concert Featuring Michael Smith and Jamie O'Reilly. The concert features a theatrical reading of O. Henry's beloved story and Smith's winning score. It is the story of Della, who sacrifices her long hair for Jim, who pawns his heirloom pocket-watch for Della. The Gift of the Magi celebrates love's triumph over adversity. Don't miss this special evening of music and holiday good will. The musical team of Jamie O'Reilly and Michael Smith are joined in the cast by Nia O'Reilly Amandes as "Della" and Victor Holstein as "Jim". Smith narrates the story. Shimmering, polished performances are provided by a stellar musical ensemble playing danceable tunes, from waltzes to swing: a soft shoe, a foxtrot, a gypsy dance, as well as witty novelty songs, tender love duets and Christmas carols. The musical ensemble includes Smith and Peter Swenson on guitars, Stuart Rosenberg on violin, Lily Floeter on flute, Katrina O'Reilly on piano and Al Ehrich on bass. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. For more information and to purchase tickets, call the number above or visit [www.stjohnschicago.com](http://www.stjohnschicago.com) or [www.jamieoreilly.com](http://www.jamieoreilly.com).

# 39th Ward Report



THE HOLIDAY SEASON BRINGS out the best in people and reminds us of our blessings. This year, we are proudly supporting the 2014 US Marine Corp Toys for Tots Campaign. The goal of the Toys for Tots program is to bring the joy of the holidays and a message of hope to disadvantaged children in

our communities. The Marines will deliver the toys to children through organizations that serve families and children. My office will be accepting new, unwrapped toys for all ages and genders until Friday, December 19. You may drop off toys at 4404 W. Lawrence, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Unfortunately, not everyone shares the joy and meaning of the holiday season. Swindlers never stop innovating, and education is the best tool we have to protect ourselves. According to the FBI, property fraud is the fastest growing type of white collar crime. Unscrupulous people record forged documents to make it appear that they own property which they do not. The criminals may then occupy, take mortgages against, or rent out those properties. This has happened throughout the city and right here in the 39th Ward. Protect yourself and your home by signing up for Cook County Recorder of Deeds Karen Yarbrough's free Property Fraud Alert program at [www.cookcountypropertyfraudalert.com](http://www.cookcountypropertyfraudalert.com).

One of Chicago's favorite holiday traditions is back. Once a year, Daley Plaza transforms into a European holiday village filled with candy cane striped wooden huts and twinkling lights that harkens back to the traditional holiday market in Nuremberg, Germany. Christkindlmarket Chicago returns to Daley Plaza is open from 11am until 8pm, Sunday through Thursday, and until 9pm on Fridays and Saturdays. On Monday December 24, the market will be open from 11 am to 4 pm. Admission is always free! For further information, please visit the official Christkindlmarket website at [www.christkindlmarket.com](http://www.christkindlmarket.com).

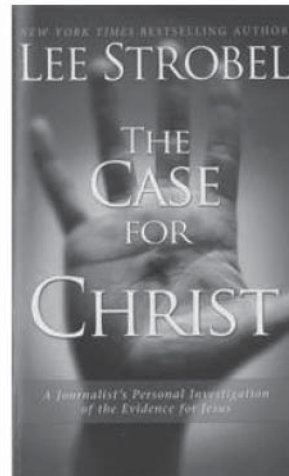
Best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful holiday season. My staff and I look forward to working together in the New Year.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Laurino  
Alderman, 39th Ward

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## Nov. 28 – Dec. 24

**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](mailto:Ward39@cityofchicago.org)



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## News and Events from Carlson Community Services



Carlson Community Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit connecting

the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service.

### Three Brothers Garden Awarded CHIditarod Grant

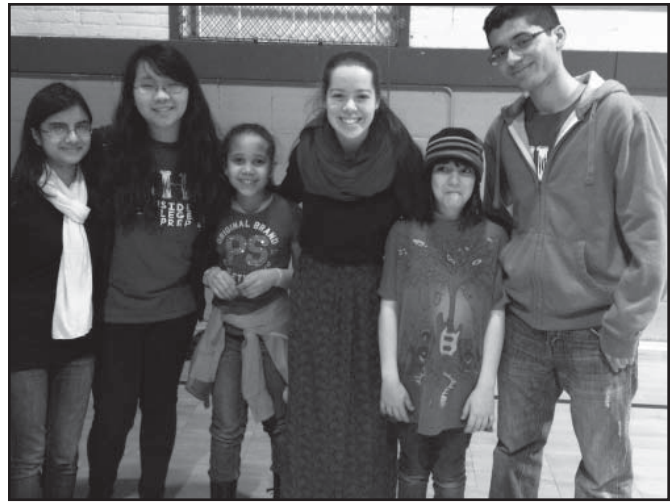
Three Brothers Garden was recently awarded a \$2,500 grant to partner with the Irving Park Community Food Pantry to encourage food pantry clients to grow vegetables at home. Funds were awarded by the CHIditarod Foundation for Project Homegrown, which is designed to give food pantry clients the tools they need to grow their own fresh, nutritious vegetables. Clients of the Irving Park Food Pantry will participate in hands-on workshops led by Carlson Community Services staff and volunteers to learn container vegetable gardening. The workshops will cover planting, growing and preserving cherry tomatoes and basil. Classes will be taught by Three Brothers Garden committee member Dorene Jordan, who is a Master Gardener and registered nurse. If you'd like to volunteer to help with Project Homegrown, contact Liz Mills at [lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org) or 773-398-6766.

The CHIditarod Foundation seeks to alleviate hunger and solve the root causes of hunger through creativity, engagement and direct action. CHIditarod accomplishes these goals by creating unique, creative, participatory events that raise funds, and providing grants to local 501(c)(3) organizations that share its hunger-fighting mission. CHIditarod sponsors an annual Chicago Urban Shopping Cart Race.

Three Brothers Garden is a community vegetable garden sponsored by Carlson Community Services. All vegetables grown in the garden are donated to the food pantry. In the 2014 growing season 861 lbs. of produce were grown. The mission of Carlson Community Services is to connect the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. For more information, visit [www.carlsoncommunityservices.org](http://www.carlsoncommunityservices.org).

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!**

**Let them know you saw them  
in the West Walker Wire.**



*Mentors from Schurz High School volunteer two days-a-week at the Magic After-School Place.*

### MAP Mentors log 430 hours!

The Magic After-School Place (MAP) is brimming with activity and energy this fall. Forty-one children from Murphy and Belding schools are enrolled in MAP, an after-school program which meets the needs of neighborhood working parents in need of affordable after-school care.

A critical component of the MAP program is our mentoring partnership with Northside College Prep and Schurz High School's BuildOn program. Approximately 38 students from the two high schools are involved in MAP's mentoring program. So far this school year, they've logged a total of 430 hours! MAP mentors assist with homework, one-on-one tutoring and lead clubs. In addition to earning service hours, the mentors gain leadership skills, confidence and a sense of providing a needed service.

### Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents Sing-Along Messiah December 7th

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee will present Handel's Messiah in a sing-along format on December 7, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. The performance will feature professional soloists and a chamber orchestra. The audience is invited to be the chorus! No prior singing experience required! The performance is free of charge, but donations are welcome. A lavish holiday reception will follow the concert. The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee celebrates its 20th season of bringing affordable, professional productions to the community and is sponsored by Carlson Community Services.

For more information about Carlson Community Services, contact Liz Mills at 773-398-6766 or [lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org).

## News From Irving Park Community Food Pantry

By Craig Shutt

### Pantry Celebrates Holidays December 17th



*Volunteers help set up the Pantry's Toy Room prior to its 2013 Holiday Distribution. Volunteers are needed to help on the night of December 16th to get everything ready. Photo: Barb Cohn*

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry will hold its annual holiday distribution for clients on Wednesday, December 17th. At this event, we close the Pantry to our typical Wednesday operation and

provide our qualified clients with the makings of a holiday dinner. We also allow those with children to "shop" our Toy Room for a gift for each of them.

We are especially in need of stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned yams and vegetables, instant potatoes, cake mixes, Jell-O and canned pumpkin. For traditional food drives, we also are in need of dry goods, such as peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, hamburger helper-type meals (such as rice-a-roni and pasta-roni), whole-grain crackers, dried fruit and nuts, dry soup mixes, energy bars and juice (100% fruit juice). We always are in need of toiletries and white crew socks.

Children up to 12 years old are eligible to receive a gift, and we typically give out 400 or so to clients. For some, it will be the only gift they receive. Your donations ensure clients' children can talk about their special presents with their friends who receive so much more. We need gifts for older children (age 10 to 12), especially boys, as we receive fewer for that age group. Soccer balls, basketballs, footballs, building sets and board games are good options, as well as age-appropriate nonfiction books and graphic novels (aka comic books). We're also collecting stocking stuffers for all ages. Hats, gloves, scarves, blankets and other personal items also are encouraged.

Drop off **Unwrapped, new toys** and food donations at the Pantry at Irving Park United Methodist Church (3801 N. Keeler) during office hours (call 773-283-6262 to check on times, as they vary). Donations can be left at the base of the stairs inside the Grace Street entrance. They also can be brought to the church from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesdays during Pantry hours. Additional toy drop-off points are Irving Park Lutheran Church (3938 West Belle Plaine), Josi's Frozen Yogurt Café

(4032 N. Milwaukee), Pert Cleaners (4213 W. Irving Park Road) and St. John's Episcopal Church (3857 N. Kostner). Look for our colorful boxes. **Deadline for toys is Wednesday, December 10th!**



*Pantry President Belma Torres, Pastor Kathleen Paisely of the Irving Park United Methodist Church and Anna Anderson enjoy some of the wine options during the Pantry's wine-tasting. Photo: Julie Kult*

Thank you to Barb Cohn and Vicci Rodgers, who are joined this year

by Sara Yoest and Debbie Fries, for organizing the toy distribution. Volunteers are still needed to collect toys, set up the toy room Tuesday night and help with the toy distribution on December 17. For information or to volunteer, contact Lee Stein at [volunteer@irvingparkfoodpantry.org](mailto:volunteer@irvingparkfoodpantry.org).

Great thanks to the anonymous donor who contributed 92 pairs of men's, women's, kid's and infant's socks in November! We were running low on many of those kinds and requests for socks really pick up this time of year. We appreciate the donation, and we are always looking to replenish our supply.

The Pantry's annual wine-tasting event was held on Sunday November 2nd at Mirabell Restaurant. Thanks to Jeff Heil for hosting our program and to all the volunteers and patrons who made the event a success. This year, it was expanded to include both wine and local micro-beer tastings. Special thanks to Todd Hess and Veronica Hastings of H2Vino for their generous wine donations and to Peter Litton, who donated wine and delivered all of it to the event. Thanks also to the local brewers who donated beers: Ale Syndicate, Goose Island Beer Co., Haymarket Brewery, Lake Effect Brewing Co., Metropolitan Brewing and Revolution Brewing. We also thank everyone in the community who donated items for the silent auction!

Email: [farmers.market@hotmail.com](mailto:farmers.market@hotmail.com)

Ph. 773.539.1200

Fax 773.539.1482

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**Dorsi Thillens Finnegan**  
President  
dthillens@thillens.com  
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## St. Viator School

It's all about that math at St. Viator this year! Last month, Viator Vibrations covered the introduction of weekly,

school-wide math themes and the new curriculum. Now in full swing in K-8 classrooms, the rigorous GO Math!™ curriculum from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt has been well received by students and teachers alike. GO Math! builds competencies through dynamic classroom activities and instructional videos that engage today's digital natives. "Students learn to think critically because the assignments require them not only to complete math problems, but to explain how they arrived at the solution," said 2nd grade teacher Miss McLemore. Traditional textbooks have been replaced by the Write-in Student Workbook and a complementary online student portal. Teachers can customize and present interactive lessons to their classrooms right from an app.

Congratulations to Principal Colleen Brewer who received the distinguished Christfideles Award from Cardinal George and the Archdiocese of Chicago.

### All New Winterfest for 2014

St. Viator is hosting an all-new Winterfest this year, **December 5-7 (Friday 4-10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-10 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.)**, featuring an outdoor ice skating rink, the annual Mistletoe Market Artisan Craft Fair, wreath & tree sales, the Snowflake Cafe & hot cocoa bar, a winter cocktail bar and photos with Santa! For information on enrollment, please visit the school website at [www.stviatorchicago.org](http://www.stviatorchicago.org) or contact Marge Tiritilli at the school office at 773-545-2173, or via email at [MTiritilli@stviatorchicago.org](mailto:MTiritilli@stviatorchicago.org)

### Disney II Magnet Elementary and High Schools

Enjoy the **Winter Concert** with our 7th-10th grade performers on Thursday, December 18th, at 6:30 p.m. at our Lawndale Campus. DII High School is located at 3900 N. Lawndale. For more information, call 773-534-5010.

There will be an **Prospective Parent school tour** (PreK-6th) on Friday, December 5th from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at our Kedvale Campus. Call 773-532-3750 to RSVP. DII Elementary is located at 3815 N. Kedvale.





## Schurz High School

Hear the moving, angelic voices of the **Schurz Choir** as they perform their Winter Choral Concert on Wednesday, December 10th from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Schurz Library. And don't forget to enjoy the upbeat sounds of the **Schurz Band & Orchestra Concert** on Thursday, December 11th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Schurz Auditorium. Schurz High School is located at 3601 N. Milwaukee Avenue. For more information, call 773-534-3420.

## CICS-Irving Park

**Outstanding Student** We want to highlight our CICS-IP scholar, Adrian Marin, who received the "Outstanding Illinois Charter School 8th Grader" award from the Illinois Network of Charter Schools! Adrian said, "If I'm asked if I like my school, I reply 'Of course I do!' My school means a lot to me because they want the best for us." His teacher, Chris Thoms, noted that "This young scholar beat out 60,000 Illinois Charter School students for this award. Props to this outstanding young man!"

**Welcome Senator!** On Tuesday, Nov. 25th, Illinois State Senator Iris Y. Martinez accepted our invitation to come and learn more about how charter schools can provide alternative learning options, and to see how we have met many challenges and succeeded over the years.

**Technology Update** With a monetary award received from developing a pilot project in the Chicago Public Education Fund Summer Design Program, we've been able to purchase 30 new Google Chromebooks.

**Health & Wellness** Students in our Health & Wellness elective class are realizing the important role that social-emotional learning plays in their academic success. In this class, students tackle a different topic each week in order to develop strategies that will benefit their overall well-being. For instance, students have practiced yoga recently to help find a sense of calm and peace. They also keep a daily journal that documents their progress toward several health goals, personalized for each student!

## GIPNA News

The Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association (GIPNA)'s Wine & Cheese Party fundraiser on November 8 was truly an incredible, unforgettable night of fun, frolic, and fundraising thanks to all who participated. GIPNA raised \$11,903! Of that sum, \$3903 will go towards the yearly costs of running the Independence Park Farmers Market.

The big news is that yesterday, we presented the John B. Murphy School students with a check for \$8,000 for their Fine Arts program, and to say that they were stunned and appreciative is an understatement.

The community's support is what makes this all possible. Thank you from GIPNA, Principal Zelenka and the smiling faces of Murphy School!

## New Local Businesses!

Check out **Cafe Urbano**, located on 4176 N. Elston, which opened on November 24th. Cafe Urbano is a new coffee and sandwich shop, which proudly offers local and organic products. They are open weekdays 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and weekends 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Another new business is inching toward their grand opening in the area! **Berrista Coffee at 4219 Irving Park Road** is Chef Homaro Cantu's new concept coffee shop. Berrista will offer an amazing coffee experience like no other, including sugar free donuts, coffee, sodas, smoothies and pastries. This is made possible with the use of an organic non-GMO berry called the Miracle Berry. Homaro Cantu, who ran Moto Restaurant for ten years, has pioneered indoor farming and the concept of "healthy junk food." He believes in cooking sugar-free, without sacrificing flavor...Enjoy your vices!

## Help Fight Crime in Your Neighborhood by Attending CAPS Meetings

You can report a community concern online. Visit <https://portal.chicagopolice.org>. In the top menu bar, click "Community," and then select "Community Concerns" and fill out the form. Other inquiries can also be emailed to: [CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org](mailto:CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org).

A community concern can be defined as a concern or issue brought to the attention of the Chicago Police Department by residents of the community. It should be criminal, quality of life or neighborhood disorder in nature, which affects more than one person and should be addressed by the police, city services and the community.

The next two CAPS meetings for District 17, Beat 1723 are Wednesday, December 17th and Wednesday, January 21st. Meetings are held at the Chicago Police Station on 4650 N. Pulaski, in the community room, and begin at 7:00 p.m. and last about an hour.

The fireplace isn't the only thing roaring this winter!!! Check out The Cat's Meow's Blazing Holiday Specials!!!

Winter Hot Stone Pedicure  
So pampering, So soothing, So relaxing!  
(make fantastic gifts!)

Get smooth for your winter vaca with a  
\$35 Brazilian Wax!

Amazing healing & restoring Gingerbread Facial

Open until 8pm NYE!  
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Give the gift of beauty this holiday with a  
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Mention this ad for 20% off any full-priced service

## Angel Team Gift-Wrap for the Homeless

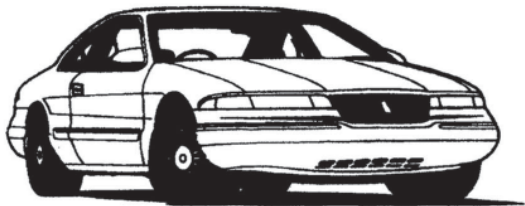
For the 15th year, the Angel Team are having their annual gift-wrap for the homeless. Help wrap gifts! Go to Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym, 4057 N. Harding, on Saturday, December 6th, anytime between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Be sure to bring tape, scissors and wrapping paper. There will be food, as well as a raffle, and all proceeds will go to local homeless shelters.

If you want to do more than just wrap gifts, you can go to any dollar store and buy items of warmth (gloves/hats, etc.) and fun (kids' non-violent toys, adult items like cards, crossword puzzle books, etc.) and toiletries (liquid soap, bar soap, lotion, deodorant, makeup, etc.).

There will be another gift-wrapping event on Saturday, December 13th at Elk Grove Village Baptist Church, 801 Beisner Road in Elk Grove Village, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

On Christmas Day, the Angel Team volunteers go to several area shelters to distribute these gifts. This year they hope to reach 1000 people! If you have any questions, contact Terri Santiago at aliveandjoyful37@aol.com or call 773-322-7723.

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# WWCA Members

Thanks for renewing or becoming members of WWCA! A list of those neighbors who have joined or renewed as of December, 2014 appears below.

## The Cicero Family

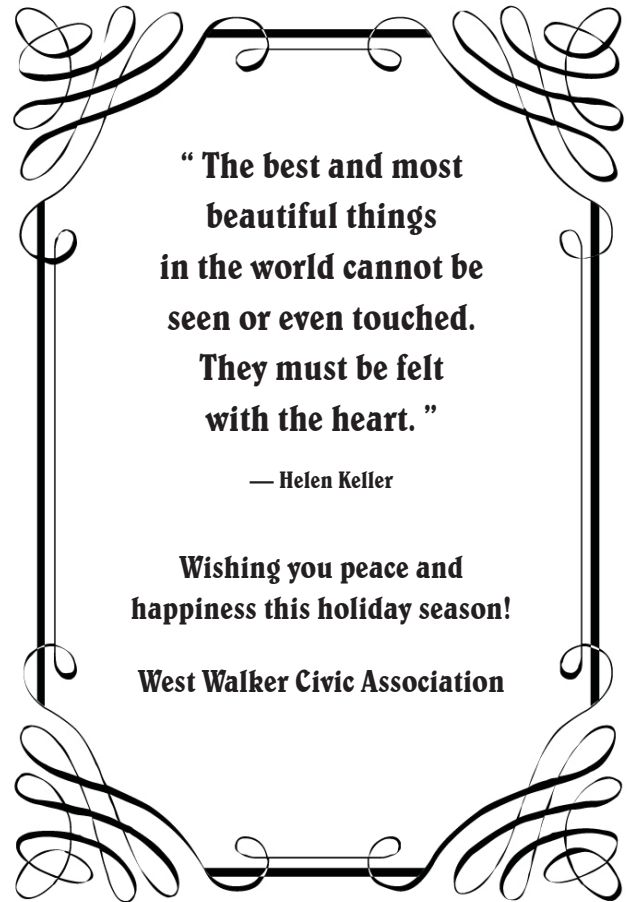
### It's Membership Renewal Time!

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 like the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, Independence Park, and Independence Library.
- Free 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.
- The Art In My Back Yard artistic series.

Bring your 2014-2015 dues to our next WWCA meeting! Or you can mail in the application below.

**You can now pay your WWCA dues with either PayPal or a credit card at the West Walker website ([www.westwalker.org](http://www.westwalker.org))!**



**“ The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. ”**

— Helen Keller

**Wishing you peace and happiness this holiday season!**

**West Walker Civic Association**

**Stay current with West Walker Blasts!  
To submit an announcement or get on the mailing list, email [wwcablasts@gmail.com](mailto:wwcablasts@gmail.com)**

**WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Yearly Membership Dues: Effective May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015

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: Sue Gregoire, 4106 N Springfield, Chicago, IL 60618



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**THAT'S PART OF OUR STORY.**

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