

# WEST WALKER WIRE

OCTOBER 2016

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

## Hands to Help, The Fish Guy Support Homeless Neighbors on Chicago's Northwest Side

At the time of this writing, Hands to Help Ministries partnered with The Fish Guy and Wellfleet to auction off a private dinner for 10 to 12 guests to support homeless neighbors living on the Northwest side of Chicago. The dinner—to be awarded to the highest bidder—will feature some of the best seafood in Chicago prepared by Chef Leo Bariso.

Hands to Help is a 10-year old grassroots organization serving neighbors on the brink of homelessness and those who are experiencing homelessness. The organization was founded by a small group of neighbors and Irving Park Baptist Church, Irving Park Lutheran Church, Irving Park Methodist Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, St. Viator's Church, and Six Corner's Association. Each year the organization serves an average of 100 neighbors in the Old Irving and Portage Park community.

Bill explains his connection to Hands to Help in an email he sent to his customers:

*I met Gayle Nelson at a neighborhood event and was touched to hear about the work she and volunteers do at Hands to Help. At the core of their efforts is the kind of compassion, that, if we all practiced, we would be so much better off as a City and as a Nation. It pains me to see how rough people have it trying to survive on the streets.*

*continued on page 10*

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Thur-Fri., Oct. 13-14 • 2:45-6:30 pm**  
Used Halloween Costume Sale  
St. Edward's Church basement  
4450 W. Sunnyside

**Sat., Oct. 15 • 7 pm**  
Carlson Community Services Trivia Night  
IPLC Gym, 4057 N. Harding

**Tues., Oct. 18 • 7:00 pm**  
WWCA General Meeting  
Latvian Community Ctr., 4146 N. Elston

**Wed., Oct. 19 • 7:30 pm**  
CAPS Meeting Beats 1722 & 1723  
4650 N Pulaski, Community Room

**Sat., Oct. 22 • 10 am - 4 pm**  
**Sun., Oct. 23 • 9 am - 1 pm**  
The Maker's Mart at St. John's Episcopal  
3857 North Kostner

### EARLY VOTING

Sept. 29 - Oct. 9 ONLY at  
69 W. Washington St., Lower Level  
**M - Sa:** 9 am - 5 pm, **Su:** 10 am - 4 pm

### Remaining Wards: Oct. 24 - Nov. 7

**10/24-10/29:** 9 am - 5 pm

**10/30:** 10 am - 4 pm

**10/31-11/5:** 9 am - 7 pm

**11/6:** 10 am - 4 pm

**11/7:** 9 am - 7 pm

**Ward 35:** NEIU-EI-Centro,  
3390 N. Avondale

**Ward 45:** District 16 Police,  
5151 N. Milwaukee

**Ward 39:** North Park Village "H" Bldg.,  
5801 N. Pulaski.  
[chicagoelections.com/en/early-voting.html](http://chicagoelections.com/en/early-voting.html)

**Tues., Nov. 16 • 7:00 pm**  
WWCA General Meeting  
Latvian Community Ctr., 4146 N. Elston

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

## WITHIN THE WIRE...

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# Dear Neighbor,

OUR FIRST WEST WALKER MEETING this fall will be on Tuesday, October 18 at the Latvian Community Center, 4146 N. Elston Avenue, at 7:00 p.m. Please come out and join us.

The WWCA is now in its 104th year as a civic organization. The needs and issues facing our community have changed many times over the years. The WWCA would like to continue our second millennium as an effective voice for all members of the community. The WWCA has traditionally sponsored events, published the Wire, held general meetings with topical presentations, sponsored local groups such as the Irving Park Community Food Pantry and the Magic Mushroom summer program for children, coordinated the annual garage sale, and so much more. What we need to do now, and continue to develop in the future, is ensure that the activities undertaken by the WWCA address the needs and concerns of the community. In order to do that, the most important things we need are feedback and manpower. In other words, we need the members of our community to tell us if they like what we are doing. If there are new ideas for WWCA involvement, we need to know. We also need the people to make things happen. In addition to the Officers and Board of the WWCA, there are dozens of people who provide a little of their time to support the WWCA. We would like to keep the WWCA viable, responsive and accessible to all of the community. To do that, we all need to pitch in, if we can.

As always, the WWCA is seeking additional volunteers to help us serve the neighborhood. Right now, we need a volunteer to serve as our meeting Secretary as well as one or more volunteers to deliver the Wire. If you want to help but don't feel those positions use your talents, let us know you want to help and we'll find a fit for you.

Plan to attend the October 18th WWCA General Meeting, as well as the CAPS meeting the following day.

*Mike Webber, President, Pro Tem  
West Walker Civic Association*



Join us for Ward Night  
Tuesday evenings from 5-7<sup>PM</sup>

**Contact the 45th Ward Office**

4754 N. Milwaukee Ave. • Chicago, IL 60630  
Phone: 773-286-4545 ward45@cityofchicago.org  
www.ward45.org

## 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 over 100 years of service  
to the West Walker Community*

**2015-2016 OFFICERS**

President Pro Tem Mike Webber  
773.539.8346

Vice President Pro Tem Davor Engel  
dengel@studiode.com

Secretary Vacant

Treasurer Sue Gregoire

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Dorie Westmeyer

**CAPS COORDINATOR**

Liz Mills

Send crime concerns to Ed Gardner  
at westwalkercrimealerts@gmail.com

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Jeanne Pozy & Joel Reese

Tricia Ramirez & Mike Hawlitzky

Rick & Melanie Reschke

Max & Charlie Webber

Charlie Westmeyer

**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.*

## Irving Park Lutheran Church is Having a Book Fair!

Looking for that perfect Christmas gift for your kids or grandkids? Stop by our **Book Fair**, and shop award-winning Bibles, faith-filled books and videos for babies to 12-year-olds. Save up to 40% PLUS free shipping on all Book Fair titles. Irving Park Lutheran Church is located at 3938 West Belle Plaine, and the book fairs will take place on Sundays between 9:15 and 10:30 am on October 16, 23 and 30.

Our Book Fair will feature a wide variety of new resources based on the beloved Spark Story Bible, including a family devotional, a collection of prayers for kids based on the Psalms, a picture book about Noah's Ark, the first-ever animated Spark video (starring Squiggles the caterpillar!), and a new line of Spark Play and Learn Books. Other noteworthy titles included are a new Christmas picture book from the *Frolic* series and a gorgeous Advent pop-up book that will make a delightful gift. Each book and video is designed to help parents instill an open-hearted, transformational, lifelong Christian faith in their children at every age and stage.

## News from Irving Park United Methodist Church

Be a part of a group of people who are trying to make a positive difference in the world! You are welcome to partner with us on any events that are of interest to you.

**Youth meetings** Sundays at 6 pm in October (October 9, 16, 23) for youth grades 6-12. This program is held cooperatively with Irving Park Baptist Church and Eden United Church of Christ, and is located at 5049 W Gunnison (the house next to Eden UCC.).

**Watch for an event in November!** In the meantime, be an ally and read (and share) this Bible study on "Claiming the Promise" of an inclusive and affirming church. Or register and attend "Search for Solutions," a conference to find solutions to police violence on October 20-22 at Chicago State University ([www.eventbrite.com/e/search-for-solutions-a-conference-plan-to-end-police-violence-tickets-26639957831?aff=efbevent](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/search-for-solutions-a-conference-plan-to-end-police-violence-tickets-26639957831?aff=efbevent)). Find the Bible Study on LGBTQ inclusion here: [www.rmnetwork.org/wp-content/themes/rmn/images/claimingthepromise.pdf](http://www.rmnetwork.org/wp-content/themes/rmn/images/claimingthepromise.pdf).

**Broadway Kids** "Favorites" show will be performed at Irving Park United Methodist Church on Sunday, October 30 at 3 pm (This is a date change). Proceeds benefit

*Continued on page 4*

## REAL ESTATE NEWS



By Dorie Westmeyer  
Realtor®, MBA, ADPR

*Your Neighborhood Realtor!*

### How Much is My Home Worth?

If you wonder how much your home is worth there are two quick ways to find out.

1. Zestimate – go to Zillow.com and put in your address. Zillow uses public records and an automated valuation model to arrive at your home value.
2. Cook County Assessor –The Assessor says “The value of your house is based on the recent sales of properties in your neighborhood that have similar characteristics to your home (age, square footage and type of construction).” The assessed value determines your property taxes. (Which you can always appeal.)

These estimates of value rarely match. They may not accurately reflect the number of bedrooms, baths & your home improvements. And they may not compare your home to nearby sales with similar features and condition.

You could get a home appraisal by a licensed Appraiser. The cost is between \$300 - \$500.

As a Realtor who lives in the neighborhood & has sold a lot of homes here, I can give you an experienced opinion of your home value and discuss how you can get the best sale price when you are ready to sell.

**If you are thinking of selling in the next 24 months, and want to get the highest sale price, please call me for a free home consultation.**

**Call Dorie, Your Neighborhood Realtor  
847-989-4870**

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*Psalm 66:1*

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*Continued from page 3*

the Irving Park Food Pantry and provide support for our Neighborhood Arts programs. Suggested donations are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

**Serve dinner at United Church of Rogers Park!** We meet there at 4 pm. Limited slots to serve, so call 773-283-6262 to sign up. Activity is suitable for ages 6 and up.

Email [irvingparkumc@comcast.net](mailto:irvingparkumc@comcast.net) for more information, or call 773-283-6262. We're located at 3801 N. Keeler (at Grace) and we are an open and affirming community that worships on Sundays at 10 am and serves throughout the week!

## Independence Branch Library Halloween Program

Although Independence Branch is still being renovated, we will be hosting a program at the Irving Park Lutheran Church in October. The Independence Branch of the Chicago Public Library will sponsor a Halloween Program, Scary Stories and Spooky Stuff, for ages four and up on Saturday October 22nd at 2 pm in the Irving Park Lutheran Church at 3938 West Belle Plaine Avenue.

# Going. Going. Gone!



Coming Soon - 4137 N. Pulaski



Under Contract - 4129 N. Pulaski



Sold - 4017 N. Harding

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“Dorie provided us with the perfect combination of professionalism, personal support and encouragement. Her knowledge of the market and the neighborhood is top notch. We would recommend Dorie Westmeyer to anyone looking to sell (or buy) a home.” - *Jim and Judy Cicero*

**If you're thinking of selling in the next 24 months and would like to get the best sale price, please call me for a free home consultation.**

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*Your Neighborhood Realtor*



**Dorie Westmeyer**  
Broker, MBA, ADPR

# 39th Ward Report



Fall has officially arrived and we're still playing baseball on the north side of Chicago. Best wishes to the Cubs in their post-season play. In between playoff games, visit the 25th Annual Harvest Fest and Farmer's Market at the North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski, on Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16, from 10

am until 3 pm. The 46-acre nature center's fall celebration features a scarecrow-building contest, storytelling, live music, a farmer's market, tours of the preserve, and refreshments for sale. Registration is not required. For more information, contact the Nature Center at 312-744-5472.

Lichter Realty is planning to demolish a car wash at 4349 N. Pulaski and will be marketing the location as a restaurant with parking and outdoor seating.

Old Irving Brewery and Company at 4419 W. Montrose opened its doors on September 22. In addition to a first-rate brewery, the restaurant features an impressive menu created by renowned chef Matthias Merges. Thank you to the Old Irving Brewery partners for choosing our neighborhood for their latest venture.

Seafood City, 5033 N. Elston, opened September 14 and has quickly become popular. Located in the former Kmart, Seafood City has taken a tired looking building and completely transformed it. If you haven't been there yet, I encourage you to pay a visit. Because of its popularity, I recommend going early in the morning or late at night to avoid traffic and to find a parking place in their lot.

The big election is coming up on Tuesday, November 8. Early voting runs September 29 through October 9 at 69 W. Washington, Monday-Saturday, 9-5 and Sunday, 10-4. October 10-23, early voting will be available at 15 W. Washington, Monday-Saturday, 9-5 and Sunday, 10-4. From October 24 - November 7, early voting will be available in all 50 Wards and 15 W. Washington. In the 39th Ward, early voting will take place at North Park Village "H" Building, 5801 N. Pulaski. Check the Chicago Board of Elections website ([chicagoelections.com/en/early-voting.html](http://chicagoelections.com/en/early-voting.html)) for more information and hours.

As always, please contact my office at 773-736-5594 or e-mail us at [Ward39@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward39@cityofchicago.org) with your concerns or questions.

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

## Dorsi Thillens Finnegan

President  
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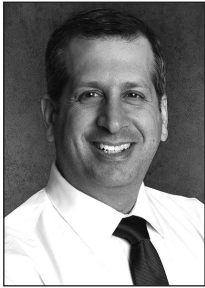
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# 45th Ward Report



## The New Water Tax and How You Can Save Money

As many are already aware, the Mayor's new water tax passed City Council on September 14. Though I, along with nine of my colleagues, raised concerns regarding this regressive tax and the seemingly overstated revenue projections by the Administration, it was not enough to prevent it from passing.

The projected costs for non-metered accounts is inflated when compared to metered accounts. Currently, median annual charges for a non-metered account is \$834.39, versus \$407.67 for metered accounts. In 2021, those bills go up to \$1,109.24 for non-metered accounts, versus \$541.96 for metered. That represents a 49% difference when billed based by consumption.

Given that, I fully expect the 7,427 households in the 45th Ward that are non-metered to request a meter so

they might realize these savings. Overall, the water rates in Chicago are low when compared nationally. However, that is cold comfort when household budgets are strained. I encourage every resident to request a water meter as both a conservation and cost saving measure. This will soften the blow of these increases for years to come. Even if you are a heavy user, you're guaranteed to not pay more than your current estimated bill for the next seven years. My experience is a savings of about 50 percent since having a metered installed in 2012.

Time is of the essence, though. First, the additional tax will start January 1, 2017. Additionally, I learned during the Finance Committee hearings that the Department of Water Management can only install 25,000 meters a year at their current rate of installation. We've urged Water Management to ramp up their installation program. But if you are one of the more than 7,400 water customers in the 45th Ward without a meter, there is no time to waste to sign up for a water meter. Sign up today at the city's MeterSave website.

## Are you thinking of selling your 2 flat?

I have a client who would like to buy  
a 2 flat in our neighborhood.

Please call me. Thanks!

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## News From Irving Park Community Food Pantry

By Craig Shutt

### Pantry's Winter Coat Drive Still Underway

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry is distributing winter coats to our clients this month and is still accepting donations, so please check your closets for any gently used coats that you can do without and bring them to the Pantry. They can be left with food donations at the bottom of the stairs at the Grace Street entrance at the Irving Park United Methodist Church or delivered on Wednesday mornings during the Pantry's operating hours (9 a.m. to noon). All sizes and shapes of coats for winter use, for children and adults, especially men, are needed.

Thank you to Erika Teijeiro-Ficht, Renee Linnemeyer, Vanessa Velez and all their minions for running our school-supply distribution for clients' school-age children during August. We supplied more than 300 children in the neighborhood with a variety of school supplies to start the year right! Thanks also to everyone who donated money, supplies and time to make the program a success.

Thank you to Ebonne Just and her crew from the "MB on the Block" program at MB Bank, who volunteered at the



*Volunteers Erika Teijeiro-Ficht and Vanessa Velez, along with their minions, helped organize and distribute school supplies handed out to clients for their school-age children in August.*

Pantry on September 14th, during a week when we had many volunteers unable to come in. They were sorely needed and did yeomen's work to keep things running. We appreciate all their efforts on our behalf!

Volunteers from the Pantry will be staffing a booth at the last GIPNA Farmers Markets of the year on October 9th and 23rd. They will answer questions, accept donations, and sell branded lunch bags and water bottles for a donation. You also can sign up to receive our Breadcrumbs newsletter. Look for the blue canopy!

# the Cabin at Old Irving

**A neighborhood tavern**



Visit our website and register for The Cabin Club to receive periodic updates on Special Events and Specials.

Also be sure to Like Us on Facebook to always get the latest on what's happening at The Cabin!

We hope to see you soon!

[www.thecabinatoldirving.com](http://www.thecabinatoldirving.com)

[facebook.com/thecabinatoldirving](https://facebook.com/thecabinatoldirving)

4104 North Pulaski Road, Chicago IL 60641  
773-481-4183

## News and Events from Carlson Community Services



**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.

### October 15th Trivia Night to Benefit Carlson Programs

Dust off your thinking cap and gather your teammates... it's time for Carlson's Trivia Night! The annual contest will be held on October 15th to benefit the non-profit's after-school program, community garden and concert series.

Event co-chair Helen Lira said, "Even if you think you hate trivia, I promise you'll love this event. It's a great night out with friends for a great cause!"

Teams of eight can purchase a table for \$240 (\$260 after October 10th). Wine, beer and soda will be sold at the bar, but bring your own snacks! Teams compete for a \$200 cash prize and bragging rights! There will be great raffle prizes, games and more!

Trivia Night takes place at the Irving Park Lutheran Church gym at 4057 N. Harding from 7 to 10 pm. The event is open to adults 21 and over. For more information or to register your team, e-mail Helen Lira at [helen@chilira.com](mailto:helen@chilira.com) or 773-406-9821.



West Walker teams have a blast at Trivia Night in 2015. Get your table together for the October 15th event.

Trivia Night benefits Carlson Community Services' neighborhood programs. Carlson is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that helps at-risk kids succeed with The Magic After-School Place (MAP), reduces hunger and beautifies our neighborhood with Three Brothers Community Garden and makes fine arts affordable and accessible through the Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series. For more information, contact Liz Mills at [lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org) or visit [carlsoncommunityservices.org](http://carlsoncommunityservices.org).

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### Murphy School

In May 2017, 7th and 8th grade students from Murphy School are embarking on a journey to Washington, D.C. Murphy School (at Grace

and Central Park) is a Fine and Performing Arts school with an exemplary ranking in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) accreditation and "Level 1" academic rating. Our motto is "The Caring Community," by providing a safe and nurturing space for our students to grow, explore, and generate positive change.

The cost of the trip is \$700 per student, which includes transportation, room/board, food, and tours of historical sites including the U.S. Capitol, Holocaust Memorial, World War II memorial, and Air and Space Museum. For many students, this will be their first time away from home. For many, this will be their first time experiencing the awe and wonder of our nation's capital.

As 80% of our families are low income, they simply cannot afford this trip in addition to graduation fees, other school fees, and private expenses. To counter this, the Friends of Murphy School (FOM) has put together a

GoFundMe account to help offset the cost per student. We're asking you to donate whatever you can, from \$10 to however much you can spare. Anything you can give would be greatly appreciated. Visit: [murphy.cps.edu/giving/dc2017.html](http://murphy.cps.edu/giving/dc2017.html).

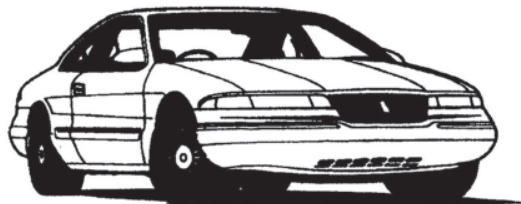
### St. Edward School

Used Halloween Costume Sale. Find gently-used Halloween costumes for sale October 13-14 from 2:45 to 6:30 pm in the church basement (4450 W. Sunnyside).

Eat at Gale Street Inn (4919 N. Milwaukee) on Thursday, October 13th from 11:30 am to 10:00 pm and 20% of your lunch, dinner or carryout tab will go to St. Ed's. Must present a flyer, available at [www.stedwardschool.com](http://www.stedwardschool.com).

PreK3 through 1st Grade Open House is Thursday, October 27, from 6-8 pm in Buckley Hall (4447 N. Lowell). We're happy to accommodate older students; please let us know you are coming. Meet our teachers, families and students! Email [rsvp@stedwardschool.com](mailto:rsvp@stedwardschool.com).

For over 100 years, St. Edward School has provided a Catholic education to children from three-year-old pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. For more information call 773-736-9133, or visit [stedwardschool.com](http://stedwardschool.com).



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### Margaret Laurino Alderman 39th Ward

39th Ward Public Service Office  
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Chicago, Illinois 60630-2511  
Ward Office: (773) 736-5594  
Ward39@cityofchicago.org



City Hall, Room 300  
121 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
(312) 744-7242



Continued from front page

Hands to Help is grateful for the opportunity to connect with neighborhood businesses to support vulnerable neighbors and our community. Want to join us in support of your neighbor? Email Gayle at [hthexecdiretor@gmail.com](mailto:hthexecdiretor@gmail.com). Neighbors are also encouraged to donate at [www.handstohelpministries.org](http://www.handstohelpministries.org) and connect with Hands to Help on Facebook (HandstoHelpMinistries) and Twitter (HandstoHelpChgo).

If you'd like to attend the next Hands to Help Community Dinner, join our mailing list by visiting [www.handstohelpministries.org](http://www.handstohelpministries.org).

## 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 Food Pantry, Independence Park, and Independence Library.
- Free e-mail updates (neighborhood events and crime).
- Free special events (Halloween Party, Fall Festival and 4th of July celebration at Independence Park).
- The Art In My Back Yard artistic series.

Bring your 2016-2017 dues to our next WWCA meeting on October 18th! Or you can mail in the application below.

## WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yearly Membership Dues: Effective May 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017

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



**W**

*Wellfleet*

*Chicago's Singular Seafood  
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Lunch Seating 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

*walk-ins welcome – reservations appreciated – closed Sunday & Monday*

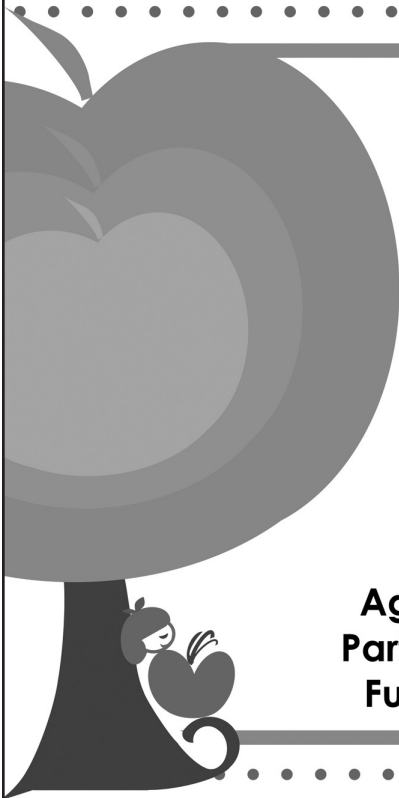
773-283-7400 [www.fishguy.com](http://www.fishguy.com) [bill@fishguy.com](mailto:bill@fishguy.com)

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*"We were first time home buyers and Connie did a fantastic job walking us through the process and making us feel comfortable and informed."*

*"(H)er patience and genuine care for her client is unparalleled."*

*"(W)ithout question, Connie's knowledge, communication skills, time, effort and overall professionalism resulted in making the marketing, sale and subsequent closing as stress-free as it possibly could have been."*

*"We have worked with Connie on 3 occasions buying and selling properties. We have found her to be very knowledgeable with the added bonus of having been an attorney before."*

*"She quickly negotiated an awesome price and was impressively responsive and attentive throughout the entire home buying process."*

*"She is very knowledgeable about the real estate market in Chicago and truly wants what is best for her clients."*

- Represented Seller
- Represented Buyer

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CONNIE H. ENGEL



773.251.3837

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