

WESTWALKER ——WIRE——

DECEMBER 2016

www.westwalker.org

Irving Park Fine Arts Presents Anna Fermin's Trigger Gospel December 11



Anna Fermin's Trigger Gospel will perform holiday favorites and original songs of Americana on December 11th at Irving Park Fine Arts Committee's holiday concert.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is pleased to present "An Americana Christmas" featuring Anna Fermin's Trigger Gospel. The Fine Arts Committee's annual holiday concert will take place on Sunday, December 11th at 2:00 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church. Anna Fermin and her band will

play holiday favorites and alt-country original songs of Americana. The band's name, Trigger Gospel, is taken from the title of a Western novel.

Recently the subject of a Chicago Tribune interview by critic Greg Kot, Fermin is described as "a singer with a striking voice and a songwriter with a feel for the indelible image."

The Filipino-born singer immigrated to the United States with her family at a young age and found herself growing up in America's dairy land,

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WITHIN THE WIRE...

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sat., Dec. 10 • 10 am - 7 pm Angel Team Annual Christmas Gift and Wrapping Event for the Homeless Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym 4057 N. Harding

Sat., Dec. 10 • 1:00 pm. Beer Brewing Master Class St. John's Episcopal Church 3857 N Kostner

Sat., Dec. 10 and Sun., Dec. 11 • 5:00 pm While You Were Sleeping: A Christmas Concert Featuring The Austin Corinthian Baptist Church Choir Tapestry Center, 3824 W. Irving Park

Thur., Dec. 15 • 5:30 - 7:30 pm Albany Park Chamber of Commerce Holiday Party at The Finch Kitchen 2925 W. Montrose

Sun., Dec.18 • 3:00 pm Roots Rock Society Irving Park United Methodist Church 3801 N. Keeler

Fri., Dec. 23 • 7:30 - 9:00 pm Holiday Concert with Curtis Wayne Hunt Tapestry Center, 3824 W. Irving Park

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

Dear Neighbor,

gëznar Krishtlindja	Shnorhavor S	Surb tsnund
<i>vesela koleda</i> sh	ièng dàn kuài lè	SELAMAT NATAL
Nadelek lowen	Sretan Bož	ić God Jul
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VESELE VIANO	OCE FEL	Z NAVIDAD

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

Mike Webber President Pro Tem, WCCA

Angel Team Returns!

Join the Angel Team for their Annual Christmas Gift and Wrapping Event for the Homeless, on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 am to 7 pm in the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gymnasium (4057 N. Harding). This annual event is coordinated by friend of IPLC, Terri Santiago, who invites any and all to participate. Come whenever and for however long you can! Bring donations of gifts, and wrapping paper, tape and scissors. There will be a raffle, silent auction and potluck lunch. All proceeds go to the homeless. Purchase and donate as many new items of warmth, toiletries, and fun for adults and/or children as you are able and bring them to the gym that day. For more information, including a list of items to donate, contact Terri at AliveandJoyful37@aol.com or call 773-322-7723.

Holiday Concerts at Tapestry Center

Austin Corinthian Baptist Church and Tapestry Center present "While You Were Sleeping," a Christmas Concert, featuring the Austin Corinthian Baptist Church Choir. This concert will be on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10 and 11, at 5 pm. Admission is FREE! Later in December, come and enjoy a holiday concert given by singer/pianist Curtis Wayne Hunt, on Friday Dec. 23 at 7:30 pm to 9 pm. Tapestry Center is located at 3824 W. Irving Park in Chicago. For more information, call the Tapestry at 708-931-8900.



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

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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.



News From Irving Park Community Food Pantry

By Craig Shutt

Pantry Celebrates Holidays December 21st



Maria (Jen) Murphy worked the Pantry's special Thanksgiving station during November, which provided client households with the makings for a holiday dinner, including meat, stuffing, potatoes and vegetables.

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry will hold its annual holiday distribution for clients on Wednesday, December 21st. At this event each year, we close the Pantry to our typical Wednesday operation and provide our qualified clients with the makings of a holiday dinner. We also allow clients with children up to 12 years old to "shop" our Toy Room for a gift and a book for each child.

To fill these needs, we are especially in need of stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned yams and vegetables, instant potatoes, cake mixes, Jell-O and canned pumpkin. Monetary donations to help buy these items are especially appreciated, as we often can leverage our volume and sources to buy at greatly reduced prices.

We typically give out about 400 toys. Your donations help even more this year, as we will not receive support from Toys for Tots due to the personal information they now require about each recipient.

We especially need gifts for older children (age 10 to 12). Books always are gone early for all ages. We're also collecting stocking stuffers for all ages. Hats, gloves, scarves, blankets and other personal items also are encouraged.

Unwrapped new toys and food donations can be brought to the Pantry at the Irving Park United Methodist Church (3801 N. Keeler Ave.) during office hours (please

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REAL ESTATE NEWS



By Dorie Westmeyer Realtor®, MBA, ADPR

Your Neighborhood Realtor!

Do You Need to Sell Your Home This Winter?

Typically winter is not the best time to sell your home in Chicago with the holidays & cold weather. However, activity starts to pick up again in February. So if you need to sell this winter, here are a few tips!

- **1. Lighten it up** Paint your walls a warm color think light cream or light grey.
- **2. Brighten it up** add more lamps & increase the wattage.
- **3. Let the light in** make sure windows are clean, pull back the drapes & pull up the blinds.
- **4. Warm it up** turn up your thermostat so it's nice and warm.
- **5. Make it inviting** add some colorful throw pillows and blankets; place flowers around your home.
- 6. Make the fireplace glow clean the soot off, get a new screen or just turn it on & make it glow!
- 7. Photos display photos of your lawn & garden in full bloom.
- 8. Clear a path make sure all walks are shoveled & ice free. And of course make sure everything is clean, scrubby & decluttered.

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

Dorie Westmeyer CHARLES RUTENDERG REALTY Your Home. Your Future. Our Experience.

Dorie@DorieWestmeyer.com www.DorieWestmeyer.com

CAPS Report Beats 1722 & 1723 Beat Meeting, November 16, 2016

Present: Beat facilitator Martha Hack, CAPS Sergeant Peter Kontil, CAPS Officer Veronica Meraz, Beat Officers from Beat 1722

Sgt. Kontil began the meeting by announcing that sometime during the week prior, an important gang arrest was made that will have a positive effect on part of Beat 1723. In addition, a team had just completed visits to four individuals identified as gang members likely to be the victims of gun violence and to offer them a program to leave gang life.

Eight to ten neighbors from the West Walker neighborhood around Berteau and Ridgeway were in attendance. Most of the meeting was spent discussing strategies to deal with the son of tenants in a building in the 4200 block of Ridgeway. (The adult son is not on the lease.) Gang members are said to have been trespassing, dealing drugs and intimidating neighbors. One neighbor is seeking an order of protection against one of the individuals. In addition, an abandoned van has been

attracting illegal activity. Sgt. Kontil had only become aware of the situation the previous night, but pledged to involve Commander Voulgaris, the Alderman and technical team if appropriate. Neighbors were encouraged to post No Trespassing signs and to call 911 (not 311) to report suspicious activity, or a crime in progress. Sgt. Kontil explained that removing problem tenants can take time. The building's landlord was there and spoke to other landlords about ways to evict problem tenants.

Update: Neighbors report that the landlord has taken steps to enforce the tenants' lease agreement, that surveillance cameras and No Trespassing signs have been installed, a text phone tree has been created among neighbors and a restraining order has been processed by the person receiving threats. Sgt. Kontil and Officer Meraz have met with neighbors, have proactively kept them informed of progress being made and made sure the abandoned van was removed. Things are quieter but residents remain vigilant. This is an excellent example of how CPD and neighbors can work together to shut down illegal activities.

A volunteer from the Kedzie Center announced that the Kedzie Center just celebrated its second anniversary. The Center provides free mental health care to residents

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Happy Holidays to You and Your Family!

I've met so many wonderful neighbors and just want to say thank you.

Dorie Westmeyer charles rutenberg realty Your Home. Your Future. Our Experience.

Dorie@DorieWestmeyer.com 847-989-4870 Your Neighborhood Realtor



Dorie Westmeyer Broker, MBA, ADPR

39th Ward Report



The City of Chicago has extended the deadline to apply for a property tax rebate to December 30, 2016. If your 2015 adjusted gross income was less than \$75,000, and your City of Chicago property taxes went up this year, you may qualify for a rebate of up to \$200 from the City. If you think you may qualify, go to the Albany

Park Library at Foster and Kimball. Bring your driver's license or state ID, your second installment 2015 property tax bill, and your 2015 income tax return. Hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 to 5, and Tuesdays from 12 to 7. If you have any questions, you can call my office at 773-736-5594.

The magical atmosphere of the holidays has returned to Chicago! Christkindlemarket is open in Daley Plaza and will remain open until December 24, when it will close at 4 pm. The city's Christmas Tree is glowing in Millennium Park near the intersection of Michigan Ave. and Washington Street. Also in Millennium Park, the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink opened on November 18 and remains open until March 5, 2017, weather permitting. Join the carolers at Millennium Park's Cloud Gate (the bean) on Fridays, from 6-7 pm.

With winter comes snow, and many people rely on walking and transit as their primary way to get around. Without a wide, clear path through snow and ice, it is especially difficult for people with disabilities, seniors and children to walk safely. Please remember that it is the responsibility of homeowners and occupants to remove snow and ice from the sidewalks according to the Municipal Code of Chicago.

On December 1, at 3:00 a.m. the City of Chicago activated the Winter Overnight Parking Restrictions for the most critical arterial streets between the hours of 3 am. and 7 am. This seasonal parking restriction is in effect until April 1, whether or not there is snow on the ground.

The holiday season brings out the best in people and reminds us of our blessings. Best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely, Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward

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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 noon on Wednesdays during Pantry operating hours.

Volunteers are needed to collect toys, set up the toy room Tuesday night and help with the toy distribution on December 16. For information or to volunteer, contact Sara Yoest at sara.yoest74@gmail.com.

Please remember to use the Amazon Smile feature at Amazon when you shop for the holidays at that site. If you use that bookmark (which doesn't change how you access the site) and designate the Pantry as the recipient, we will receive 0.5% of the price of all purchases made all year long. It adds up!

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Kenosha, Wisconsin. Classically trained in piano, voice, and violin, she picked up the acoustic guitar when she moved to Chicago.

Fermin has opened for many notable artists including the late great Johnny Cash, Steve Earle, David Crosby, and Neko Case, among others. Band members include guitarist Andon Davis, drummer Paul Bivans, bassist Michael Krayniak and Alton Smith on keyboards. Fermin and her band have toured internationally and have released five albums. After an eight-year hiatus, they recently released a new CD titled "You Belong Here." You can sample her music at annaferminmusic.com.

A special holiday reception prepared by the Fine Arts Committee follows the concert. Admission to the concert is free, but donations are welcome. The Fine Arts concerts are relaxed and casual, lasting a little over an hour. Perfect for families!

The Irving Park Fine Arts Series, now in its 23rd season, was begun by Roger Bingaman, the series artistic director. The intent of the series is to bring high quality, professional musical and theatrical events to the Irving Park neighborhood.Other concerts in the Fine Arts series are harpist Ben Melsky performing January 29th and a classical trio on April 23rd. Carlson Community Services, which sponsors the Irving Park Fine Arts concert series, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Its mission is to connect the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. For more information, contact Liz Mills at 773-398-6766 or visit carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Local Church News

St. John's Episcopal Church

3857 N Kostner, 773-725-9026

Beer Brewing Master Class on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 1 pm. Join Master brewers Marlon Jacobs and Shelly Wright to brew something to keep you warm this winter. What a great way to learn to brew your own beer! Bring beer, a snack to share and a \$10 donation for the supplies and the beer (which will be ready in six weeks.)

Our **Lessons & Carols** service will be on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 4 pm. Our annual celebration of the season and St. John's anniversary is filled with the English holiday tradition of scripture, anthems and hymns featuring the St. John's Choir and our new St. John's Children's Choir. A festive potluck follows. Childcare provided.

Irving Park Lutheran Church

3938 W. Belle Plaine, 773-267-1666

Bake Sale / **Children's Christmas Program** Stock up on Christmas baked Goods and crafts on Sunday, Dec. 18t at The sale begins at 9:15 am in Fellowship Hall, and continues after the 10:30 annual Children's Christmas Play, an original production with a vast cast. Join us for some or all of the morning!

Adult Study Join us on Sundays in the Chapel from 9:15-10:15 am. *While We Wait: Living the Questions of Advent* offers new ways of connecting the story with your own questions of faith and approaches an all-toofamiliar narrative from perspectives we may have missed. You'll read about biblical figures mentioned in passing in the "original" Advent. Writes author Mary Redding, "This book examines Advent as a journey in which God seeks us at many levels of our understanding and spiritual willingness. It allows for real-life struggles and questions as a part of Advent's spiritual exploration."

> ALDERMAN JOHN ARENA

Join us for Ward Night Tuesday evenings from 5-7™

Contact the 45th Ward Office 4754 N. Milwaukee Ave. • Chicago, IL 60630 Phone: 773-286-4545 ward45@cityofchicago.org www.ward45.org **Christmas Worship Schedule** Saturday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, Worship with Candlelight, 10:30 pm. Sunday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day, Worship with Lessons and Carols, 10:30 am.

Irving Park United Methodist Church

3801 N. Keeler, 773-283-6262

Come Home for Christmas! Irving Park United Methodist Church is an open and affirming, diverse and welcoming congregation where all people are invited to gather around the table to eat together, to worship, and to build up community that values each person. This holiday season we will be offering several opportunities for healing and celebration. Please know that you are welcome at each one.

Soup & Prayer on Mondays at 11:30 am. Everyone is welcome to this brief space providing time to pause to remember the sacred in the midst of this busy season of advent. Prayer begins at 11:30, followed by a simple lunch of soup and bread. The last Soup & Prayer is December 19.



Roots Rock Society will perform at IPUMC on December 18

Musical Celebration of Cultural Diversity with Stann Champion and the Roots Rock Society Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3 pm. All ages will enjoy this fun mix of musical and cultural styles with more than a concert – it is an interactive experience! (Playing and dancing encouraged!) Families may want to attend together – or parents may want to bring their children to enjoy the experience and give themselves a few hours' break.

Roots Rock Society formed in late 1986 by founder and guitarist Stann Champion to keep his culture and heritage alive through music. Roots music helps bridge racial /gender differences in all age groups. The workshop discusses the foundation of roots rhythms from the African Diaspora (Afro-Cuban, Afro-Brazilian, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-American) with voice, drum, guitar, dance and songs. Audience participation allows everyone





to experience the ways earlier cultures are combined and interwoven into the current American culture today Rock, Blues, Reggae, Gospel, Calypso, Rap, Jazz, Zydeco, Salsa, Kompa, Zouk etc.

Worship Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 pm and Christmas Day Worship at 10 am. Christmas Eve worship includes an impromptu drama with our children choosing their parts as well as musical favorites and the candles that are the signature closing of the service. Christmas Day worship will focus on Lessons & Carols with scriptures that tell the narrative of God's love for us and hymns that lift up our hearts. All people are welcome and affirmed in our worship.

Chamber Holiday Party December 15th

The Albany Park Chamber of Commerce invites you to celebrate the holidays with Chamber members and community members alike. All are welcome. The party is Thursday, Dec. 15 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm, at The Finch Kitchen, located on 2925 W. Montrose. Admission is Free! Please RSVP by Monday, Dec. 12th. Space is limited. Visit https://chamberholiday2016.eventbrite.com to register.

The Albany Park Chamber of Commerce, part of North River Commission's economic development work, views our business districts as the intersections of commerce and community. Our districts and their business owners and employees thrive when they are supported by the residents around them, and vice versa. So our holiday party helps build those connections. Join us, network with your neighbors, and look ahead to 2017.

Thank you to The Finch Kitchen for their hospitality. The Chamber will provide light appetizers, and you are welcome to order what you like to eat or drink in addition.

Give the Gift of Home This Holiday Season

As all of us at Hands to Help Ministries celebrate the holiday season and get ready for 2017, we thank you for partnering with us to support our neighbors on the brink of losing their homes and those who are experiencing homelessness. With your hands and funds, we helped one hundred neighbors stay in their homes and find housing this year.

Hands to Help Ministries works in our local community



of Old Irving and Portage Park. We serve neighbors such as Al who works fulltime as a manager at a local coffee shop. Over the summer, while he was experiencing homelessness, he was referred to Hands to Help. Our Outreach Worker helped him create a budget and connected him with the Irving Park YMCA. In September, with a grant from our Client Assistance Fund, he moved off the street and into his own home.

For many neighbors, \$400 or less is the difference between living on the streets and having a stable home. By, living paycheck to paycheck, without a rainy day, they do not have a safety net to fall back on in times of crisis. In these situations, a drop of just a few hours or an unplanned medical expense can be disastrous.

Your donations throughout the year and particularly at this critical time, help neighbors like Al continue to work and obtain housing. Hands to Help is a small grassroots organization run and supported by individuals and families who believe in supporting our neighbors and local community. Many worship with you and share your love of the greater Old Irving and Portage Park community. Together we identify neighbors before they are evicted and work with neighbors living on the street.

Your financial support makes a huge impact on our work. Please visit our website at www.handstohelpministries.org and Thank you!





West Walker Wire



St. Edward School

St. Edward School is proud to announce our JV Football team won the Northwest Catholic Championship, defeating

Queen of All Saints. The team ended the season with an 8-1 season record. We are Big Red proud of you!

Congratulations to 8th grader Amelia Hutchinson who placed 1st at the Guerin Prep math competition and to 7th grader Frank Schotanus who placed 3rd. Way to go!

Come celebrate the holiday season with St. Edward's annual Christmas Program in our gym, Buckley Hall, on Wednesday, December 16th at 7 pm. Enjoy your favorite Christmas songs all sung and performed by our talented students! Happy Holidays!

Save the Dates! Saturday, Jan. 7, Students perform in the play: James and the Giant Peach. Sunday, Jan. 31, Open House and Registration for 2017-18 school year. Registration and tours are from 10:45 am - 1:30 pm. Meet in Buckley Hall at 4447 N. Lowell. Great chance to meet students, parents and teachers. Register for St. Ed's! We wish you a happy and prosperous 2017!

For over 100 years, St. Edward School has provided a Catholic education to children from three-year old prekindergarten 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. Our school is located at 4343 W. Sunnyside. For more information on the School call 773-736-9133. or visit www.stedwardschool.com.

Dorsi Thillens Finnegan dthillens@thillens.com 773.279.5768 direct 847.702.4444 mobile



THILLENS.COM 888.539.4446





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in the general Irving Park, Albany Park and North Park neighborhoods. The Kedzie Center is located at 4144 N. Kedzie. Their phone number is 773.754.0577. Web address is www.thekedziecenter.org.Neighbors report that things are quieter but remain vigilant.

As always, call 911 to report suspicious activity or individuals in your neighborhood and provide detailed descriptions of the individuals and vehicles involved in any incident. Even if a neighbor has already reported the incident or activity, other neighbors should make separate calls. The police often look at the number of calls for service in determining the allocation of officers and resources with respect to a particular situation or incident. CAPS meetings for our beat are currently held monthly at the 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski, in the Community Room. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month and typically last one hour. The next regularly scheduled meeting for Beat 1723 is Wednesday, December 21, 2016. If you or a neighbor have been the victim of a crime and you would like to share that information with your neighbors, e-mail the details to westwalkercrimealerts@gmail.com. The exact address of the crime and name of the victim will be kept anonymous.

Liz Mills CAPS Coordinator

17th District Chicago Police Department

4650 N. Pulaski / 312-742-4410

FACEBOOK PAGE: CAPS-017th District-Albany Park

CONTACT INFORMATION: Commander Elias Voulgaris, Elias.voulgaris@chicagopolice.org

CAPS Sgt. Peter Kontil, 312-742-4588, CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org

Beat 1722 & 1723 CAPS Meeting (West Walker is Beat 1723) is the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the 17th District Community Room.



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



NCA MEMDEDCLIID rung May 1 through Angel 20	WEST WALKER WIRE AD RATES				
WCA MEMBERSHIP runs May 1 through April 30 nually. Your dues help fund a variety of items:	<u>I TIME</u> Business card NA (3.5" wide x 2" high)	<u>3 times</u> \$45 🗖	<u>6 times</u> \$90 🗖	<u>10 times</u> \$125 🗖	
• Ten issues per year of the <i>West Walker Wire</i> , delivered to residences and businesses in West Walker,	1/4-page ad \$30 (3.7" wide x 5" high)		\$160	\$260 •	
The annual community garage sale.	1/2-page ad \$60 (7.5" wide x 5" high)		\$330	\$520	
• Area non-profit groups like the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, Independence Park, and	Full-page ad \$120 (8" wide x 10" high)	\$330	\$660 🗖	\$1,050 [
ndependence Library.	Business Name:				
 Free e-mail updates on neighborhood events and area crime. 	Mailing Address:				
• Free special events, like the Halloween Party and Fall	Contact Name:				
Festival and 4th of July celebration at Independence Park.The Art In My Back Yard artistic series.	Contact Phone:				
ng your 2016-2017 dues to our next WWCA meeting	Contact E-Mail: The Wire is published 10 times a year (September through June).				
March! Or you can mail in the application below.	• ALL AD ARTWORK is due on the 20th of the month prior. High-				
u can now pay your WWCA dues with either	resolution pdfs, tiffs, and jpgs (black-and-white) are preferred. Microsoft Word files and camera-ready "hard copy" versions also are acceptable.				
PayPal or a credit card at the West Walker	 WE PREFER that ad artwork be submitted as a file attachment and sent in an e-mail to: WWWire@solsticepr.com. 				
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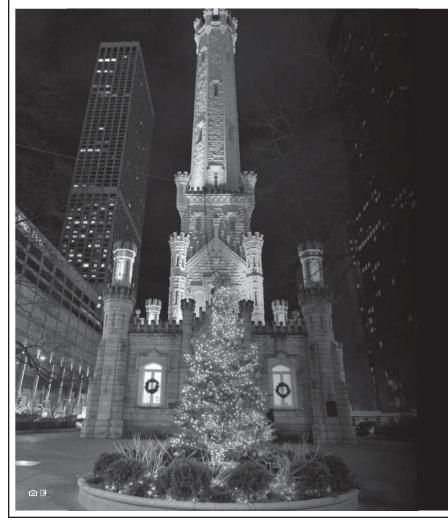
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Mishing you and yours the very best this holiday season.





773.251.3837 cengel@atproperties.com

