



WEST WALKER WIRE

MARCH 2017

www.westwalker.org

St. John's Hosts Discussion on Racial Segregation in Chicago

St. John's Episcopal Church on Chicago's Northwest Side will host author **Natalie Y. Moore** for a discussion of her book, *The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation*. The event will take place Tuesday, March 14 at 7 pm at the church, located on 3857 N. Kostner. The event is free and open to the public.

Moore, a native of Chatham, is the South Side reporter for WBEZ, Chicago Public Radio 91.5 FM. Her book, published in 2016, highlights the impact of Chicago's historic segregation and the ongoing policies that keep the system intact. "Segregation is crippling because it's the common denominator in innumerable challenges in black communities, from housing to jobs to food access to education to violence," she writes.

She has been invited to St. John's by the congregation's African-American book group, which is reading the classic literature of the black experience in America. The group's reading list includes current titles such as Ta-Nehisi Coates' "Between the World and Me," Colson Whitehead's "The Underground Railroad," and Margo Jefferson's "Negroland."

Copies of "The South Side" will be available for purchase and signing by the author at the March 14 event. Those who wish to attend are encouraged to read the book in advance, however, so as to participate more knowledgeably to the discussion.

WITHIN THE WIRE...

- 2 Dear Neighbor
- 3 News From Hands to Help Ministries
- 4 CAPS Report
- 5 Potholes • Moving Mom • Irving Park Lutheran Church News
- 6 News and Events from Carlson Community Services
- 7 News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry
- 8 Neighborhood School News • GIPNA Annual Alley Cleanup
- 9 GIPNA Fine Craft Fair

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sat., March 11 • 7:00 pm
Game Night, IPLC - Fellowship Hall,
3938 W. Belle Plaine

Wed., March 15 • 7:30 pm
CAPS Meeting Beats 1722 & 1723
4650 N Pulaski, Community Room

Tues., Mar. 21 • 7:00 pm
WWCA General Meeting
Latvian Community Ctr., 4146 N. Elston

Sat., March 25 • 6:30 pm - Midnight
St. Edward's Big Red Auction
The Lei'd Back Luau
Buckley Hall, 4447 N. Lowell

Fri., April 28 • 7 - 11 pm
Hands to Help Trivia Event
Filament Theatre, 4041 N Milwaukee

Sat., April 29 • 9 am - noon
GIPNA Annual Alley Clean-Up
Meet at Byron & Lawndale

Sat., May 6 • Noon - 4 pm
GIPNA Fine Craft Fair
Independence Park Fieldhouse

Sat., May 20 • 9 am - 4 pm
WWCA Garage & Yard Sale
More information to come!

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

Join Hands to Help on Friday, April 28th

On Friday, April 28th, help stop the cycle of homelessness in our community and test your trivia knowledge. Join Hands to Help Ministries at the Filament Theatre on 4041 N. Milwaukee, from 7-11 pm for our annual **Trivia Night fundraiser**. Early bird individual tickets are available for \$45 and tables of 8, which include a bottle of wine, for \$350 at the Hands to Help's website: handstohelpministries.org. Enjoy tasty food, test your trivia knowledge, support your neighbors, and have fun!

During the event, Hands to Help will honor Laura Singer and our founding board members as we celebrate over ten years of service. Laura served as Hands to Help's board chair as well as our Treasurer. In addition, she directly served neighbors experiencing homelessness. Under her leadership, the organization has grown to better serve the Irving and Portage Park community.

Hands to Help is grateful to our many supporters who help make this event a success. We have formed an event committee to plan the event and engage the community. Businesses are also joining us by becoming event sponsors as well as providing gift certificates for restaurant dinners and services. They are also providing food for the event. There is room for additional committee members and business partnerships. For more information, please contact Gayle at hthexecdirector@gmail.com or 773-599-0502.

Hands to Help is a grassroots organization started with the help of area churches and fellow neighbors in the Portage and Irving Park communities. Our small staff plus many volunteers provides resources to neighbors on the brink of losing their homes and those who are living on the streets.

Each year we serve an average of 100 neighbors. Hands to Help reaches out directly to neighbors living on the streets. These services lead to homeless neighbors attaining housing. We also serve neighbors on the brink of losing their home to help them maintain their housing. We provide financial assistance as well as resources in our community decreasing the barriers neighbors face and allowing them to focus on employment, mental health, and other critical needs.

Please join us on Friday, April 28th to help us fund our crucial services throughout 2017. To purchase your tickets or for more information visit Hands to Help's website at www.handstohelpministries.org, Facebook, or Twitter (@Handstohelpchgo). See you there!

REAL ESTATE NEWS



By Dorie Westmeyer
Realtor®, MBA, ADPR

Your Neighborhood Realtor!

How to Reduce Your Property Taxes

In addition to filing a property tax appeal, there are primarily 3 ways you can save money on your property taxes if the home/condo/multi-family is your primary residence.

- 1. Homeowners Exemption** – All homeowners qualify for this exemption. Once you apply it is renewed annually. If you haven't received it, you can file certificates of error for the last 3 years you've owned the home and receive a refund.
- 2. Senior Exemption** – If you are age 65+, you need to apply for this exemption annually.
- 3. Senior Freeze** – Apply annually if you are age 65+ with a gross household income of \$55,000 or less last year. This freezes your assessed value which is used to calculate your property tax.

Check the 2nd installment of your tax bill to see if you are receiving your proper exemptions. These exemptions can save you from \$500 - \$1500 on your taxes. There are additional exemptions for returning Veterans & Disabled Persons. For more information and the forms to file for these exemptions, go to www.cookcountyassessor.com.

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
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Dorie Westmeyer

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CAPS Report

Beats 1722 & 1723 Beat Meeting, February 15, 2017

Present: CAPS Sergeant Peter Kontil, CAPS Officer Marylane Parks, CAPS Officer Hamid, Gail Beitz, 39th Ward Office (Alderman Laurino).

In addition to the CAPS staff, there were an additional four CPD officers and approximately 25 residents.

Sgt. Kontil reported that the “party house” in the 4200 block of Keeler is in foreclosure. Officers have spoken to residents about the illegal parties being held there. Residents are encouraged to call 911 if they spot large crowds gathered or underage drinking.

The Tactical Lieutenant for the 17th District addressed the crowd about recent car thefts and car jackings. He cautioned that people should not leave their cars running at the gas station, convenience store, school or day care. Thieves are targeting vehicles that are unlocked and running. He also strongly discouraged leaving your car running and unattended to warm it up on colder days.

In response to a question from a resident, the Lieutenant stated that crime has gone down in the 17th District compared with last year. Most crimes are garage burglaries, graffiti and car thefts. He encouraged people to check out DNAinfo’s web site for crime stats.

The monthly packet distributed at CAPS meetings has been shortened. The reports no longer include all crimes committed in Beats 1722 and 1723 during the prior month. For efficiency, the reports are limited to violent crimes such as assault, robbery, domestic abuse and battery.

A representative from Illinois State Treasurer Michael Ferich’s office spoke about services available through the Treasurer’s office and about financial products. She encouraged residents to log on to illinoistreasurer.gov to check for unclaimed property with iCash, and learn more about Bright Start college savings plan and ABLE savings plan for people with disabilities.

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

Continued on page 9.

How’s the West Walker Real Estate Market?



SOLD - 4129 N. Springfield



SOLD - 4137 N. Pulaski



SOLD - 4129 N. Pulaski

Hot! We Sold These Homes Near Full Price in Under 2 Weeks!

“I was so pleased that I contracted with Dorie to sell my house. I was impressed by her very knowledgeable and thorough marketing strategy and the clear way in which she presented this from setting the sale price to offer acceptance. The house sold quickly and during the entire process her manner was so respectful and patient making it a pleasure to work with her. Both party’s attorneys have complimented the smoothness of the sale. I highly recommended her as realtor for any property transaction” - *Angela McCormick*



Dorie Westmeyer
Realtor®, MBA, ADPR
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When It's Time to Move Mom

by Audrey Cosgrove, Attorney

It happens to all of us, our parents grow older and the time comes when they have to sell the family home. I had one female client in her 90's who declared, "When you sell your house your life is OVER!" She was being a little dramatic but what she said was not far from how most people feel. It is an emotional and complex time. There is the need to concede that you can't handle the house anymore. There is the loss of the familiar surroundings. There is the acquisition of new housing expenses. The costs involved with real estate transactions have increased significantly since they last purchased a home. And there is confusion with the home sale process. Many older adults have trouble hearing over the phone, are not internet savvy (what does e-sign mean?), and have difficulty with their memory, which makes the whole transaction a strain for their real estate agent and their attorney. Yet the most significant issue for my aging clients is finding a new home for a lifetime of possessions.

If you find yourself involved in this process, here is a guide to keep them moving:

1. Once the contract is firm, know where they are going to move and arrange to move or put in storage all the items they will keep. Let them keep a few items of clothing and toiletries, a place to sleep and disposable dishes to get them through until the time of their move.
2. Discuss with them their estate distribution intentions. If they planned on giving the fishing poles to their granddaughter, this would be the time to distribute the items of sentimental value.
3. If their remaining belongings are of decent quality, call an estate company and ask them to host a sale. XCNTRIC, a Chicago area estate sale company, says they will take 30% of the profits if they host the sale. If the remaining items are not salable, an estate sale company can do a clean out for a flat or hourly rate.
4. Hire a cleaning company to do a final scrub immediately before closing. This will ensure the property is in "broom clean" condition and will impress buyers who will come through to do their final walk-through.

As you do this, acknowledge your parent's loss but also treat the move with great excitement. And don't underestimate how long it will take to get this done. An average closing takes about 45 days, and you don't want to lose a great buyer because the house was not ready and asked to postpone the closing date.

Audrey Cosgrove is the owner of The Cosgrove Law Firm L.L.C., in Chicago.

Email: farmers.market@hotmail.com
Ph. 773.539.1200
Fax 773.539.1482



4110 North Elston, Chicago, Illinois 60618

www.gardenchicago.com

It's Pothole Season!

With the weather warming we will see more potholes develop. We can help our streets stay smoother, longer if we get them filled early. But the city crews need your help in locating them. Please call 311, or your local alderman's office or download and use the SeeClickFix app for iPhone or Android to report them. The sooner we know about them the sooner we can get them filled.

Irving Park Lutheran Church Hosts Summer Camp

Summer Camp @ IPLC Looking for something for your kids to do this August? Send them to Summer Camp @ IPLC (a program that's been known for years as Magic Mushroom, now continuing our outreach to children with a different name and restructuring.) Children can attend for 1, 2, 3 or all for 4 weeks, for half-days (\$65 a week) or full days (\$150 a week). Your child will participate in arts & crafts, critical thinking activities, group games, and a weekly field trip. Dates of the full program are July 31 through August 25. For more information, contact Rachel at summercampiplc@gmail.com, call the church at 773-267-1666, or go to the church website at www.iplc.org.

Continued on page 9.



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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.

Soup & Bread Thanks!



Bonnie Tawse and Sarah Steedman's Japanese Ramen soup was a hit at Soup & Bread for Carlson!

Thank you to the restaurants, cooks and diners who made Soup & Bread for Carlson a success! Over 200 people came together February 12th to listen to the Indy Park Bluegrass Jammers

and sample delicious soups from Bourgeois Pig Cafe, Community Tavern, Hot Woks Cool Sushi, Mirabella and Tre Kronor. Neighborhood cooks included Sarah Steedman, Susan Ford, Dorene Jordan, Ellen Olech, Sara Anderson and Holly Lundquist. Forty-five gallons of soup were served, along with dozens of loaves of bread!

Thank you to raffle donors Dell Cove Spices, Mike Jordan, Rebecca Haneberg, Bruce Anderson, Tara McKee and neighbors who donated to the wine basket! Many thanks to our event co-chairs Rebecca Haneberg and Ruth Olech, our hosts Irving Park Lutheran Church and all the volunteers who helped the evening run smoothly.

Soup & Bread for Carlson raised \$3,000 for Carlson's neighborhood programs – The Magic After-School Place, Three Brothers Garden and the Irving Park



Top: Chris Altman and Joyce Winer serve soup from Hot Woks Cool Sushi and Community Tavern. Bottom: Valentine-making in the kids' craft room at Soup & Bread.

Fine Arts Series. For more information, visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents Carthage Faculty Trio

On Sunday, April 23rd at 2:00 p.m., the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee will present the Carthage Faculty Trio in the final concert of its 2016-2017 season. The trio is comprised of Wael Farouk, piano, Andrew Williams, violin and Allegra Montanari, cello. The concert will be held at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave.

The program will include Johannes Brahms' Trio No.3 in C minor. op. 101. A reception with the artists follows the concert. Admission is free, donations are welcome.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Series, now in its 23rd season, was begun by Roger Bingaman, Director of Music at Irving Park Lutheran Church. The intent of the series is to bring high quality, professional musical and theatrical events to the Irving Park neighborhood. The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is a program of Carlson Community Services, a 501c3 non-profit. For more information, visit carlsoncommunityservices.org or call Liz Mills at 773-398-6766.

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



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

News From Irving Park Community Food Pantry

By Craig Shutt

Hubberts Named Volunteer Manager



Executive Director John Psiharis welcomes long-time volunteer Gina Hubberts to her new position as Volunteer Manager for our Wednesday operations.

Long-time volunteer **Gina Hubberts** has agreed to serve as Co-Volunteer Manager for the Pantry. She will coordinate volunteer assignments and operations for our Wednesday distributions, while Lee Stein continues to manage our monthly Tuesday

night program. If you are interested in volunteering on Wednesday mornings, please contact Gina at ginahubberts@sbcglobal.net.

For the four weeks before Easter, the Pantry will distribute Easter baskets to our clients' children up to 8 years old.

Baskets are created by gender and age range (under 2, 2-5, 6-8 yrs) and we also accept baskets already filled with our menu of choices. We typically use medium-sized baskets with grass and layers of items found at the dollar store.

These include:

- Plastic eggs filled with jelly beans or change.
- Snacks such as juice pouches, crackers, breakfast bars, and microwave popcorn.
- Wrapped candy.
- Bubbles, Nerf balls, Yo-Yos, pinwheels, etc.
- Easter pencils, erasers, toys.
- Small stuffed animals.
- Stickers, crayons, markers.
- Little books and activity pads.
- Homemade bookmarks.



The Pantry is looking for donations to its Easter program for clients' children.



Executive Director John Psiharis and former nutrition instructor Alicia Theofanis (second from right) show the Pantry's new Nutrition Class instructors around the facility. The two, from Dominican University, are Lisa Artega, a senior Nutrition & Dietetics student (second from left), and Melissa Morales-Perez, a first-year ACEND Certificate student who holds a B.S. in Food Science & Human Nutrition from the University of Illinois.

Due to limited storage space, please arrange a time to deliver completed baskets. We also are happy to accept monetary donations earmarked for this program. If you have any questions, email Gina Hubberts at volunteer@irvingparkfoodpantry.org

The Pantry has restarted its Nutrition Classes for clients on Wednesday mornings with the help of students from Dominican University. The programs show clients how to use foods received through the Pantry to create tasty and nutritious meals. The classes will be run by Lisa Artega, a senior Nutrition & Dietetics student, and Melissa Morales-Perez, a first-year ACEND Certificate student who holds a B.S. in Food Science & Human Nutrition from the University of Illinois.

Thank you to Dr. Sarah Hadzic of Paws & Feathers Veterinary Clinic for a donation of several hundred pounds of pet food and to Randy and Susan Patke for regularly obtaining large donations of pet food from Pet Supplies Plus on Elston. Thanks also to the anonymous CARE supporter who donates \$100 monthly for pet food, as well as to Target and three Pet Supplies Plus stores (Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood and Morton Grove) for their ongoing support of the Pet Food Corner through periodic donations of pet food.

St. Viator Elementary School's 8th-grade class, led by teacher Don Slawik, visited the Pantry in February and helped sort some of the toiletry donations that continue to come in and performed other activities to help out. We appreciated their help! We are always open to visits from classes who want to pitch in for a few hours (and gain service hours).

ALDERMAN JOHN
ARENA

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

Contact the 45th Ward Office

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



St. Edward
School

Congratulations to the St. Edward 8th grade boys basketball team for winning the Northwest Catholic Conference and

the Championship! What makes this win so special is that they have won the league and the championship for the last three years and were undefeated with a record of 42-0. We are Big Red proud!

St. Edward's annual Big Red Auction, the Lei'd Back Luau, will be held on **Saturday, March 25 from 6:30 pm until midnight** in Buckley Hall. (4447 N. Lowell). This Hawaiian-inspired evening will feature Live and Silent auctions, dancing, and award show fun! Adults only please join us for the largest fundraising event of the year! For more information and to purchase tickets please visit <https://e.gesture.com/events/4WW/>.

On **Wednesday, April 12** Students will participate in Living Stations of the Cross at 1:45 pm in St. Edward Church, 4350 W. Sunnyside. We invite you to participate in this special Easter tradition.

Missed our Open House? Have a chance to tour St. Edward school again on **April 27 from 9-11 am**. For more information call 773-736-9133.

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. Our school is located at 4343 W. Sunnyside. For more information on the School call 773-736-9133, or visit www.stedwardschool.com.

Annual Alley Clean-Up

Saturday, April 29 is the Annual Alley Clean-Up, from 9 am to noon. Meet at the corner of Byron and Lawndale. Join your neighbors to clean up the debris and windblown garbage built up over the winter at the GIPNA Annual Alley Clean-up. A volunteers table will supply shovels, rakes, brooms and garbage bags for your use, courtesy of 45th Ward and Alderman John Arena. School age children can fulfill their community service requirements. Please contact gipnamail@gmail.com for further details.

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GIPNA Fine Craft Fair in May

Your best chance to buy a Mother's Day Gift is Saturday, May 6th at the 10th Annual Fine Craft Fair. The fair will be held in the gymnasium at the Independence Park fieldhouse from noon to 4 pm. Local artisans will offer original handmade craft items such as jewelry, textiles, glass, ceramics, baby clothes and handmade cards.

Continued from page 4.

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 pm. on the third Wednesday of the month and typically last one hour. The next regularly scheduled meeting for Beat 1723 is Wednesday, March 15, 2017. 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. You can follow the 17th District CAPS office on Facebook by searching CAPS - 017th District Albany Park.

Liz Mills
CAPS Coordinator

Continued from page 5.

Join us for **Lenten Worship on Wednesdays** through April 5th. Start the evening with a community meal from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, with simple food & fellowship. Worship follows dinner at 7:30 until 8 pm, with contemplative prayer & song.

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 9, Palm/Passion Sunday, beginning at 10:25 am Palm Procession (Victory Hall), followed by 10:30 am worship, with reading of the Passion Story.
Thursday, April 13, Maundy Thursday, Seder Supper at 6:30 pm (RSVP w/office 773-267-1666) in Victory Hall, followed by Communion & Stripping the Altar at 8 pm.
Friday, April 14, Good Friday Worship at 7:30 pm.
Sunday, April 16, Easter, join us for 9 am breakfast in Victory Hall, followed by 10 am Easter Egg Hunt in Luther Hall (upstairs), followed by 10:30 am Worship.

Stephanie Cutter



I have been a Realtor with Coldwell Banker since 2001 and have lived in the area since 2004. I love helping my clients make their big move and I strive to empower them to make informed decisions to achieve their real estate goals. I work hard to have a positive impact on my clients, my industry and the communities I work in! Please visit www.stephaniecutter.com/living-park for more information!



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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 March appears below.

Wanda & Kevin McDonald
Sue Gregoire & Jim Medd
Karin Turnquist
Cutter Mummer LTD (Stephanie Cutter)

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 2017-2018 dues to our next WWCA meeting on March 21! Or you can mail in the application below.

WEST WALKER WIRE AD RATES

| | 1 TIME | 3 TIMES | 6 TIMES | 10 TIMES |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Business card NA <i>(3.5" wide x 2" high)</i> | \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> | \$95 <input type="checkbox"/> | \$130 <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 1/4-page ad \$35 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(3.7" wide x 5" high)</i> | \$85 <input type="checkbox"/> | \$165 <input type="checkbox"/> | \$265 <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 1/2-page ad \$65 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(7.5" wide x 5" high)</i> | \$170 <input type="checkbox"/> | \$335 <input type="checkbox"/> | \$525 <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Full-page ad \$125 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(8" wide x 10" high)</i> | \$335 <input type="checkbox"/> | \$665 <input type="checkbox"/> | \$1,055 <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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Yearly Membership Dues: Effective May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018

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.)

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Please note your e-mail address if you would like to receive e-mail updates:

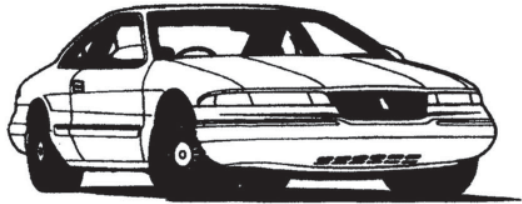
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- Tuesday: \$4 Beef Tacos Open Mic at 9 p.m.
- Wednesday: Rib Special \$7.25 Half/\$12.50 Full Slab
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