



WEST WALKER WIRE

JANUARY 2018

www.westwalker.org

Holiday Thanks from the Pantry!

By Craig Shutt

Thank you to Alderman John Arena, State Representative Jaime Andrade, Toy Room Coordinators Sara Yoest and Debby Fries and all the annual and weekly volunteers who helped with the Pantry's Holiday program on December 20th.

We served 272 households with a total of 1,044 people, giving them the makings of a holiday meal for their entire family. We also distributed 351 toys to 139 pantry clients, along with plenty more games, stocking stuffers, books, hats, gloves and blankets. Overall, we gave out more than 800 items. We also gave pet food to 144 households for their many dogs, cats, and birds, two guinea pigs and one rabbit.

After our program, due to the generosity of our community, we were able to donate 60 toys to the Magic After-School Place program run by Carlson Community Services, 28 to the IPUMC Hispanic Mission, three bags to Sherwood Elementary School in Englewood (100% low income student body) and two

Continued on page 7.



Top: Co-coordinator Debby Fries and volunteer Rick Leidl pick up toys at Old Irving Brewing Co. prior to the Pantry's Holiday program in December. Photo by Sara Yoest. Bottom: Students at Portage Park Elementary School stand with some of the donations they collected during their December drive for the Pantry. Photo by John Psiharis.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Jan. 17 • 7:00 pm *NEW TIME*

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

Sun., Jan. 28 • 2:00 pm

Irving Park Fine Arts Presents
~Nois Saxophone Quartet
Free Admission
Irving Park Lutheran Church
4100 N. Harding

SAVE THE DATE!

Sat., Feb. 24 • Time TBD

West Walker Winter Social
*More info in the February issue
of the West Walker Wire!*

Sun., Feb. 25 • 5-7 pm

Soup & Bread Benefit
for Carlson Community Services
Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym
4100 N. Harding

WITHIN THE WIRE...

- 2 Dear Neighbor
- 3 45th Ward Report
- 4 CAPS Report
- 5 News from Irving Park Lutheran Church • 39th Ward Report
- 6 News and Events from Carlson Community Services
- 7 Local Volunteer Opportunity • Hands to Help Ministries

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

Dear Neighbor,

FIRST, EVERYONE SAVE THE DATE OF SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018 for the West Walker Winter Social, our annual “beat the winter blues” bacchanal. Location is yet to be determined, but we’ll keep it close for all our neighborhood revelers.

Also, there are no more scheduled WWCA general meetings until March. Until then, stay warm, stay safe and read the weekly e-mail blasts for updated community information.

Finally, I would like to extend a greeting and hopes of a Happy New Year to all. The New Year is often a time of reflection as well as a time to imagine self-improvement and envision a better future and world. Resolutions are often viewed as a once a year activity. But personal experience (as well as some research) shows that resolve isn’t really influenced by the calendar. We should all strive to take the time to identify things that will make our lives, or the lives of those around us, a little better. It doesn’t have to be earth-shaking or life-changing. It doesn’t have to start on January 1st. But when you find yourself saying “wouldn’t it be nice if...” take the time to see if there is some little thing you could do to nudge things in a better direction. Everyone sees things differently, and not everyone will act to make the same change. But a lot of people making many little improvements will make things better for everyone.

Here are a few resolutions I hope to see in action:

- Commit random acts of kindness.
- Use “Please” and “Thank You” more often.
- Drive slower.
- Check in with your Neighbor.
- Give a little back.
- Pick up some rubbish; even if it’s not yours.
- Make eye contact.
- Say “hello” to people – neighbors and strangers.
- Take better care of yourself.
- Walk, don’t drive.
- Vote.
- Help those less fortunate.
- Put down the cell phone.
- Think Green.
- Volunteer to be a Wire Carrier

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

Mike Webber, President, Pro Tem
West Walker Civic Association

WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

West Walker Mission Statement

“The pursuit of the West Walker Civic Association is to make our diverse neighborhood the best it can be by securing the services, safeguards and improvements the West Walker community is entitled to have.”

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

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773.539.8346

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at westwalkercrimealerts@gmail.com

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WEST WALKER EMAIL BLASTS

Anne Marie O’Kelley

*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.*

45th Ward Report



Update on The Point at Six Corners Development

For several months, we have been in discussions with the owners The Point at Six Corners on the future of the development. Although a plan for 100,000 square-foot of retail at the location has already received city approvals, and permits were issued, the owner chose not to move forward with construction.

My office has reengaged the owner in a discussion on how to move this development forward. We have repeatedly pointed the owner toward the Six Corners Master Plan as a guide, and the owner is considering adding a residential component to the site and partnering with a senior living provider. Those discussions continue, focusing on the potential height of the structure, the retail and parking mix, and how the building addresses and adheres to the Six Corners Master Plan.

We have made much progress over the last six years at Six Corners, and in all our business districts. From Binny's and Culver's at Six Corners, to Weston's and Tipsy Cow Cantina in Jefferson Park, to Midwest Kitchen and Mini City 21 in Gladstone Park, my office has worked hard to foster a hospitable businesses environment, unstick city red tape, and encourage reluctant landlords to fill their vacant commercial spaces. Those efforts have resulted in real commercial gains throughout the ward.

While I share the general frustration with the delays at The Point, I am dedicated to bringing development to that space that works for the betterment of our community. It is more important to get development of this scale done right than it is to take the first offer.

I look forward to updating you with more information as it becomes available. Once we have a coherent plan that meets our community's high standards, I will host a community meeting to introduce the plan. Until then, any proposal is speculative.

REAL ESTATE NEWS



By Dorie Westmeyer
Realtor®, MBA, ADPR

Your Neighborhood Realtor!

Real Estate Predictions for 2018

Hi Neighbors,

We've had a strong real estate market this Spring and Summer. And Fall is gearing up to be great. Interest rates are still low and buyers are looking to purchase before the holidays.

When you're ready to sell your home, this Fall or any season, it's important to think like your prospective buyer. Here are a few highlights from a NAR Study *and some of my insights when you are ready to sell*. Buyers:

- Search online for about 10 weeks & look at 10 homes. *Make sure you have a broad range of good professional photos.*
- Expect to live in their home about 14 years. *Inform buyers about our great neighborhood too!*
- 44% view convenience to their job as the most important factor. *West Walker can't be beat with the Blue Line, Metra and I90/94 close by.*
- Repeat buyers purchase within 14 miles of their current home. *Many of our buyers are condo owners in the West Loop and Roscoe Village ready to move up to a single family home.*
- Purchase when it is the right time for them. *Listen to the prospective buyer and tailor your marketing and sales approach to each buyer.*

Thinking like a buyer is just one of my strategies to help you sell your home.

If you're 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

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CAPS Report

Beats 1722 & 1723 Meeting, December 20, 2017

Important Notice: Beginning in January, the Beat 1722/1723 CAPS meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

Present: CAPS Officer Hamid, three Beat officers
Officer Hamid reported two shootings in December, one at 3800 Leland and the other in the 4300 block of Central Park. Both are believed to be gang related. He also reported that there has been an increase in robberies and car thefts in Beat 1723 – roughly Pulaski to Kimball. Robberies are occurring in gangways and alleys. He urged residents to remain vigilant, avoid going out late at night and listen to your sixth sense. He demonstrated a small personal alarm that sets off a shrill alarm by just pulling a pin.

There has been an increase in package theft and thefts from cars that often happens during the month of December. Always lock your car doors and doors and windows at home.

A resident asked about the fire in mid-December at the apartment building in the 3800 block of Montrose. The fire is still under investigation.

A representative from Youth Outreach Services was introduced. YOS works with families who may have a troubled child or a child exhibiting negative behaviors. Services for youths aged 12-21 are designed to promote social engagement, manage and improve negative behaviors and build self-confidence. You can find out more about Youth Outreach Services at www.yos.org or 773-777-7112.

Officer Hamid passed around photos of recently arrested suspects. He reported that a sting operation in the 4200 block of Pulaski resulted in the arrest of a woman for possession of 500 grams of cannabis. The meeting ended with best wishes for a happy holidays.

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. Starting in January 2018, meetings

It may be cold out, but our neighborhood is HOT!



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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.



Dorie Westmeyer
Realtor[®], MBA, ADPR
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Dorie Westmeyer · 847-989-4870 · CHARLES RUTENBERG REALTY · Dorie@DorieWestmeyer.com



News From Irving Park Lutheran Church

Gentle Chair Yoga Thursdays in January 6:45-7:45 pm.

(On Thursday, January 18th from 6:30-7:30 pm) at Irving Park Lutheran Church on 3938 W. Belle Plaine. This January the class will focus on keeping warm-increasing circulation and range of motion in joints-as well as mindfulness and meditation, utilizing a chair as a prop. Good for beginners and anyone wanting a gentle practice. Taught by Janet Misbach, certified and registered hatha yoga teacher. Contact her for more information at jgmisbach@gmail.com

Women's Volleyball

Join the IPLC women's volleyball team! The season runs from January through mid March. All games are on Sunday afternoons at 2 pm or 3:15 pm at St. James Lutheran, 2101 W. Orchard Avenue. For more information, contact Dana Buetow: dmb501@sbcglobal.net or 312-610-9008

Lively Conversation Continues with "Saving Jesus" Sunday Adult Study, 9:15-10:15 am

Join our dynamic discussion in the Chapel about a provocative series, "Saving Jesus." The study includes video segments with various voices of progressive Christianity. Add your voice -- all perspectives are welcome -- as we discuss the relevance of Jesus for today.

Seeking Senior Volunteers

Are you 55 years of age or older and looking for engaging volunteer work in Chicago? AARP RSVP (Retired and Seniors Volunteer Program) is looking for Volunteers 55+ in age to help with Irving Park Food Pantry (and other opportunities as well). AARP RSVP program partners with over 30 non-profits throughout Chicago, including Irving Park Food Pantry, to place individuals age 55 and over in meaningful volunteer roles. Contact Jen O'Grady, IPLC member and Project Director for the AARP RSVP Chicago for more information at jograd@arp.org.

39th Ward Report



Dear West Walker residents,

I hope that everyone had a very happy and healthy holiday season.

Are you interested in recycling your Christmas Tree? Residents of the City of Chicago are invited to bring their Christmas Trees to North Park Village (5801 N Pulaski Road) from Saturday,

January 6 through Saturday, January 20. The trees will be chipped and turned into mulch that will be available to residents.

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 3:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. This seasonal parking restriction is in effect until April 1, whether or not there is snow on the ground. Please be mindful of signs when parking this winter.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my constituent service office at (773) 736-5594 or email at ward39@cityofchicago.org. You can also sign up for my e-newsletter on the upper right side of my website, www.AldermanLaurino.com.

Sincerely, Margaret Laurino, Alderman, 39th Ward

Dorsi Thillens Finnegan

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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.

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents ~Nois

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee will present a free concert featuring saxophone quartet ~Nois on Sunday, January 28th at 2:00 p.m. ~Nois was formed in 2016 by Northwestern University graduate students Hunter Bockes, János Csontos, Jordan Lulloff, and Brandon Quarles. The quartet will present a diverse program of contemporary classical music, including works written especially for the ensemble. ~Nois will also perform works by Robert Schumann and George Gershwin. "I saw them at a street fair over the summer and I'd never seen anything like them," said Roger Bingaman, Artistic Director. "They're fantastic!"

The concert will be held at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Avenue. Admission to the concert is free of charge, although donations are gladly welcomed. A reception with the artists follows the concert, hosted by the Fine Arts Committee. Bring the family!

The 2017/2018 Fine Arts season is dedicated to the memory of Nancy and Gordon Johnson, the Irving Park Lutheran Church members who with Artistic Director Roger Bingaman founded the series in 1994. The final concert of the season is Ling's Classical Strings on March 18th. All performances are at 2:00 pm at Irving Park Lutheran Church.

MAP Program Holds 5th Annual Talent Show

The Magic After-School Place (MAP) held its fifth annual talent show on December 15th. The acts included comedy, magic tricks, singing and dancing. One young student performed an original song on guitar. Family members and friends were amazed at the MAP kids' talents!



Saxophone quartet ~Nois will perform on January 28th at 2:00 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church.

The talent show was the culmination of eight weeks of dance instruction by Chicago Loves Dance. The kids got to show off what they learned -- hip hop for the girls and break dancing for the boys. The dance instruction is part of the MAP program's arts enrichment.

MAP serves 60 kids from Murphy and Belding schools, 60% of whom come from low-income households. MAP's affordable tuition and engaging programming keeps kids safe and offers peace of mind to working parents.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee and the Magic After-School Place are programs of Carlson Community Services, a 501c3 non-profit. Its mission is to connect the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. To learn more, visit carlsoncommunityservices.org.

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

Save the Date for Soup & Bread!

Soup & Bread for Carlson Community Services will be held on Sunday, February 25th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church gym, 4057 N. Harding Ave. Up to 10 satisfying soups from local restaurants and neighborhood cooks will be served along with delicious breads to benefit Carlson's programs. The planning committee is forming now – if you'd like to volunteer to help or have a soup to suggest, contact Liz Mills at lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org.



Continued from page 1.

bags plus a box of hats/mittens to St. Viator parish for their families in need. So everything that was donated found a home.

Special thanks to the churches and businesses that provided space for our drop-off boxes for toys and games: Irving Park Lutheran Church (3938 W. Belle Plaine), Oak Street Health (4848 W. Irving Park), Pert Cleaners (4213 W. Irving Park), Josi's Frozen Yogurt (4032 N. Milwaukee), Ward 45 Ald. Arena's office (4754 N. Milwaukee), Old Irving Brewing Co. (4419 W. Montrose) and Potbelly (4185 W. Irving Park).

Thanks also to the students at Portage Park Elementary School, who collected more than 10 bags of coats and 500 food items during their December School Food Drive. Other food drives were held on our behalf during the holidays and we will acknowledge them as collections roll in.

We appreciate everyone who donated toys, time, money and/or effort to make the program a success. You allow us to continue to meet our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

Local Volunteer Opportunity

Looking for a volunteer opportunity with flexibility? Are you organized? Irving Park Food Pantry seeks motivated volunteers to coordinate one of our three annual outreach programs: **School Supplies Drive** (distributes in August), **Farmers Market Scheduling** (two Sundays per month, May through October) and **Easter Basket Distribution** (distributes for the four weeks prior to Easter).

These events have been active for many years, so they are well-established, making it easy for anyone to step into the role of coordinator. If you or someone you know is interested in one or all of these events, please email Lee Stein at leesstein@gmail.com or call her at 312-608-1465 for more specific information. THANK YOU!



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

Contact the 45th Ward Office

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www.ward45.org

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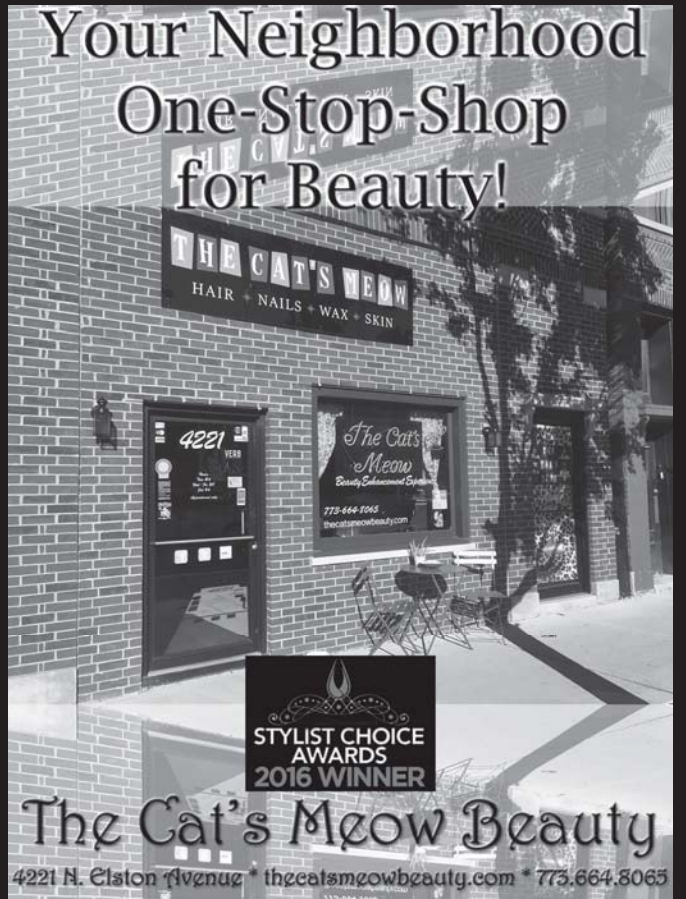
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Hands to Help Ministries

Thank you to all who supported our ministry in 2017 and visited us at the Independence Park Farmers Markets! Each year Hands to Help's outreach program connects an average of 100 clients to financial resources, such as rent and utility payment assistance, and case management to assist with mental health/addiction and employment training, to improve housing outcomes and stabilize lives. Now that extreme cold has set in upon us, it is more important to check on our neighbors. If you know of anyone struggling with these issues you can contact our outreach worker at 773-599-9370 or visit our web page at info@handstohelpministries.org for more information.

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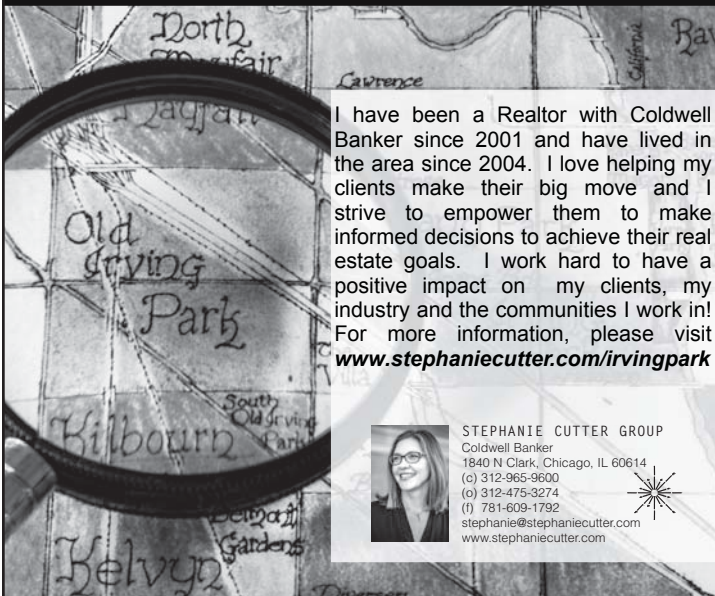
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whiter than snow.”
Psalms 51:7*

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! For more information, please visit www.stephaniecutter.com/irvingpark



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Continued from page 4.

begin at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month and typically last one hour. The next regularly scheduled meeting for Beat 1723 is Wednesday, January 17, 2018. 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.

Here's how to reach or follow the 17th District CAPS office.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CAPS.017

Twitter: @ChicagoCAPS17

Email: CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org

Phone: 312-742-4588

Event Calendar: <http://home.chicagopolice.org>

Liz Mills
CAPS Coordinator

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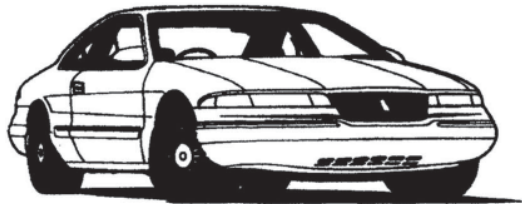
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It's Membership Renewal Time!

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

Ten issues per year of the *West Walker Wire*, delivered to residences and businesses in West Walker, free of charge • The annual community garage sale. • Area non-profit groups like the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, Independence Park, and Independence Library. • Free e-mail updates on neighborhood events and area crime, and a LOT MORE!

WWCA Members

Thanks for renewing or becoming members of WWCA! Here's a list of neighbors who have joined or renewed as of January:

Dorothy Homeyer • Thomas Pierce • Bob Ready
Richard & Melanie Rescheke • Jeff & Linda Tshara
Pulaski Cleaners

Bring your 2017-2018 dues to our next WWCA meeting. Or you can mail in the application below.

WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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*.)

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

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

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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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Goals for 2018



Wishing you a happy and healthy new year,

-Connie



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