

WESTWALKER ——WIRE——

FEBRUARY 2020

www.westwalker.org

Hands To Help Ministries Seeks Board Members

Hands To Help Ministries is a small non-profit serving the homeless and working to prevent homelessness in the Six-Corners/Irving Park areas of Chicago. We've been in existence for over 15 years, providing assistance not only to people living on the street but to people at risk of losing their housing, allowing them to stay in their homes through rental assistance, utility payments, etc.

HTH has two paid part-time employees with oversight from a volunteer Board of Directors. We are looking to add new members to our board. We welcome people of various backgrounds, skill sets and experience levels.

If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved with a great community organization at the board level, please email the service manager at b.wahler@handstohelpministries.org, to learn more about HTH's work, what Board membership involves, and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for supporting Hands To Help!

WITHIN THE WIRE...

- 2 Dear Neighbor
- 3 News from Irving Park Lutheran Church
- 4 CAPS Report
- 5 Irving Park Community Food Pantry
- 6 Carlson Community Services
- 7 Neighborhood News Items
- 8 Neighborhood School News
- 9 Hiring Fair

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Feb. 19 ● 7:00 pm
Beats 1722/1723 CAPS Meeting
17th District Community Room
4650 N. Pulaski

Sun., Feb. 23 ● 2:00 pm
Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents
Broadway's Best
Irving Park Lutheran Church
4100 N. Harding
Free admission, reception follows concert
www.carlsoncommunityservices.org

Sat., Feb. 21 ● 5:30 - 8:30 pm GIPNA's Neighbors Night Out The Cabin, 4104 N. Pulaski More information on page 7

Sat., Feb. 29 ● 7 - 10 pm
West Walker Civic Association's
14th Annual Winter Social
The Cabin, 4104 N. Pulaski
More information on back cover!

Sat., Feb. 29 ● 5 - 9 pm
Party for the Park
Extensions Dance Center,
3933 N. Elston
More information on page 7

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



Dear Neighbor,

WE GET AN EXTRA DAY THIS MONTH, so why not spend it with your Neighbors at the 14th annual West Walker Civic Association Winter Social. This year, we're heading back to the Cabin at Irving Park, because we had such a good time last year. See the full-page flyer on the back of this edition of the Wire for details, and plan on seeing us February 29th.

2020 IS A BIG YEAR FOR ELECTIONS. Make sure to write down March 17, 2020 as election day, right next to the shamrock on your calendar. Many local, state, and federal elections and primary elections are held on March 17th. Then, watch the march toward the November 3, 2020 election. Whatever your politics, it's going to be a riveting election season. Make sure your registration is up to date and memorize directions to your polling place. Voting is your right.

2020 IS ALSO A CENSUS YEAR. For this cycle, census surveys are moving predominantly online. The City of Chicago will be providing resources to ensure that everyone will be counted. A strong census turnout is enormously important. Census population figures drive federal funding and apportionment of US House of Representatives. In 2000, only 66% of eligible Chicagoans participated in the census. With recent population declines, a much stronger turnout is required if we are to even maintain current federal funding levels and our representation in Washington, both as a city and in the state of Illinois. April 1, 2020 is officially Census Day, and you should have received a card with information on completing the census by that time. However, the process will last until July. We will be updating information and resources here in the Wire over the next few months.

CITY CREWS ON IRVING PARK ROAD continue the water main replacement project. For those who thought we were almost out of the woods, more construction lies ahead. As soon as the water replacement project is completed, sewer replacement related projects will engulf the Pulaski and Irving Park intersection. This should begin in mid-February and last into March or perhaps April. This may require complete temporary shutdowns of traffic in various directions during the project. Please use caution as a driver and a pedestrian when navigating the roads.

FINALLY, WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW WIRE CARRIERS to take the place of Neighbors who have decided to hand over the reins after many years of volunteering to deliver Wires. A Wire delivery route usually take an hour or so to deliver and the Wire is distributed 10 times a year. You're reading this because a Neighbor volunteered to take the time to help out our neighborhood. If you can help, please contact me at 773.539.8346 or webber.wwca@gmail.com.

Mike Webber WWCA President, Pro Tem

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

2019-2020 OFFICERS

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Vice President Pro Tem Davor Engel dengel@studiode.com

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Dorie Westmeyer

CAPS COORDINATOR

LizMills@sbcglobal.net

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

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Lee Samsami Stein

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.



News From Irving Park Lutheran Church

Celebrating African American Heritage in Worship In February, Black History Month, in worship at Irving Park Lutheran Church we'll have a focus on racial justice and celebrate African American Heritage with special prayers, music, and other elements of worship. Thanks to Praise Coordinator Dee Kimpel for all she does to coordinate this. We give thanks to God for brothers and sisters in faith of African American heritage, and continue to work to be the church for all races and nations, following the call of Jesus.

Feast Today! Fast Tomorrow! Join us for our Annual Pancake Supper and Bake Sale on Tuesday, February 25th, from 5 - 7:30 pm in the IPLC Gym (corner of Harding and Belle Plaine). There will be Swedish pancakes, regular pancakes, sausage, lingonberries, apples, and orange juice for all! Then treat yourself to the bake sale table after dinner! Admission is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child 12 and under. Feast and fellowship before Lent's time of prayer and reflection.

Ash Wednesday & Wednesdays in Lent at Irving Park Lutheran Church Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on February 26. Join us for worship at 7:30 pm. The service includes imposition of ashes and holy communion. Then, join us on five subsequent Wednesdays (March 4-April 1) for an easy weeknight dinner (6:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall) and a 30 minute family-friendly worship service (7:30-8:00 pm) that is filled with prayer, scripture, contemplative songs and a children's sermon.

Visit from Bishop Yehiel Curry March 15 The new bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, the Rev. Yehiel Curry will be at Irving Park Lutheran Church on Sunday March 15. We look forward to welcoming and celebrating him and having him preach and also lead an adult forum.

Sunday Adult Study: The Cross and the Lynching Tree Later in February, the Adult study will take up The Cross & The Lynching Tree by Black Theologian James H. Cone. Cone, who for years taught at Union Theological Seminary and died last year, shows how the cross and the lynching tree are the two most emotionally charged symbols in the history of the African American community and explores these symbols and their interconnection in the history and souls of black folk.

REAL ESTATE NEWS



By Dorie Westmeyer Realtor®, MBA, ADPR Your Neighborhood Realtor!

House Cleaning Tips for Winter

As we stay inside more, here are some tips to make wintry days cleaner and healthier.

- **1.** Wash and disinfect garbage cans and wastebaskets For more environmentally friendly disinfectant, mix 50/50 undiluted hydrogen peroxide with water. Let sit for an hour, rinse and dry in the sun to eliminate bacteria.
- **2.** Turn over furniture and vacuum the bottoms Tip upholstered chairs and couches back to expose the underside. Vacuum up those dust bunnies that can get tacked underneath.
- **3.** Change your furnace filter It's recommended to change them every 60 days. Mid-price filters cost around \$12 \$17. Pleated filters with 1250 MPR (microparticle performance rating) work well in homes.
- **4.** Clean the tops of doors, trim, artwork Swiffer makes a great duster for those hard to reach places including ceiling fans. Or try an old pillow case on fan blades to collect the dust.
- 5. Stop dirt in its tracks Get a tough bristle outdoor mat and inside get a boot tray.
- **6. Kill bacteria** Microwave the kitchen dish sponge; wipe down countertops periodically with Clorox disinfectant wipes.

Source: Houselogic

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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CAPS Report

Beats 1722 & 1723 January 15, 2020

In attendance: CAPS Officer Jerry Zander, Tac Lt. Michelene Alexa, Officer Eli, Beat Officers, CPD Community Organizer John Campos; Alderman Rodriguez (33rd Ward); Jessica Vazquez, Alderman Ramirez-Rosa's chief of staff (35th Ward); a volunteer from Alderman Gardiner's office (45th Ward) and approximately 30 residents.

Jessica Vazquez from Alderman Ramirez-Rosa's office reported that funds have been obtained to place a camera in an alley at Cullom and St. Louis where drug dealing and reports of shots fired are frequent. The camera should be in place by the end of February.

Officer Zander thanked the community for their concern over the shooting of a 17th District officer in the bank robbery chase that occurred in December. Tac. Lt. Alexa reported that overall, crime in the 17th District is down. She cited the following statistics: year-over-year, there is a 37% decrease in murder; 31% decrease in shootings; 44% fewer robberies and burglaries; 28% fewer motor vehicle thefts.

Lt. Alexa talked about several recent arrests of suspected criminals who are believed to have been involved in "mini crime waves." There is a resurgence in gang activity among Maniac Latin Disciples. Lt. Alexa requested that people report graffiti that features pyramids, crowns, pitchforks, anything broken or upside down, or the initial "K" at the end of letters. These can be emailed directly to her at michelene.alexa@chicagopolice.org. Please include location and continue to report to 311 for removal. Officer Zander stated that the Strategic Decision Support Center (SDSC) room, where camera feeds and data storage are being used to pinpoint the location of crimes in real time, has been an important tool in crime reduction. Several attendees had a chance to see how the room operates after the meeting. Ring doorbell video submitted by residents is also reviewed in this room.

Officer Zander reminded everyone that you should never let a stranger in to your home. A recent sexual assault in the 17th District occurred when someone posing as an employee of a package delivery service gained entry to an apartment. He also reminded that when calling 911 it's important to give a head-to-toe description of the suspect.

Continued on page 9

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



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I love our neighborhood & have lived here for over 20 years. 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.



Dorie Westmeyer Realtor®, MBA, ADPR Your Neighborhood Realtor

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News From Irving Park Community Food Pantry

By Craig Shutt

Pantry Offers Voter Registration in February

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry is offering voter registration in conjunction with ILVOTE, a certified civic organization. Registration is available to any qualified Illinois resident, including clients, volunteers and neighbors.

Qualifications comprise being a U.S. Citizen at least 17 years old on or before March 17 (day of the primary election) and 18 years old by November 3 (general election), live in your precinct for 30 days prior to the election and not be in jail.

The registrars will be part of several groups, including Indivisible Oak Park and League of Women Voters. They will offer registration and provide mail-in ballots, sending reminders to return the ballots. The program continues every Wednesday in February as well as the night of February 11.

The Pantry will give out Easter baskets to clients' children from March 10th to April 8th (prior to Easter on April 12th). We are looking for donations of dollar-store Easter baskets, plastic eggs (empty or filled), wrapped candies, candy bars and small toys.

Donations can be brought to the Pantry from 8 to noon on Wednesday mornings, from 6 to 7:30 on February 11 and March 10 or any time at the bin on the enclosed front porch at 3833 N. Tripp Ave.

If you have questions or are interested in helping distribute baskets, email craigshutt@gmail.com.

A number of people and places helped the Pantry with donations recently. They include:

- Robert Huston of the Indy Park Bluegrass Jam Band, who stopped by the Pantry in December to drop off a donation of \$700! It represented the tips the group garnered playing GIPNA's Farmers Market this summer at Independence Park. The group also plays the first Sunday of every month at City News Cafe at Six Corners
- The Dinham and Clausen families in the 3700-3900 blocks of Lawndale Ave. The kids sold handmade ornaments to benefit the Pantry and sent us \$54 from their sale.
- T&D Electrical (3344 W. Irving Park), ran a drive for us in December that included food, toiletries and men's socks.

We appreciate their help and all of the support from everyone who helps us meet our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"



The Dinham and Clausen family children show off some of the ornaments they made and sold to their neighbors in the 3700-3900 blocks of Lawndale Ave. during the holidays. They sent the Pantry a check for \$54 from the sale. Photo courtesy of the Dinham and Clausen families



The Pantry is looking for donations of Easter baskets and items to fill them for its annual distribution in March and April. Photo courtesy of Irving Park Lutheran Church



Marianne Ryan with T&D Electrical dropped off at the Pantry the food, toiletries and socks the company collected during a December drive. Executive Director John Psiharis was on hand to accept the donations. Photo by Craig Shutt



News and Events from Carlson Community Services



Carlson Community Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit connecting

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

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents Broadway's Best on 2/23

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is pleased to present "Broadway's Best," a review of popular tunes from Broadway musicals on Sunday, February 23rd. A quartet of vocalists will perform favorite songs accompanied by Roger Bingaman, Artistic Director of the Fine Arts Series and Music Director at Music Theater Works in Evanston. Sopranos Alicia Berneche and Emily Barnash will be joined by tenor Trenton Baker and Christopher Richard, baritone.

Alicia Berneche is a renowned American lyric coloratura soprano who has sung leading roles in operas throughout the United States including Lyric Opera of

Chicago. Emily Barnash is a singer and actress with experience performing opera, musical theatre, jazz, rock and Gospel music. Trenton Baker is an actor and singer who made his Chicago theater debut in 2019. Christopher Richard is a veteran of Chicago musical theater and regional opera. All four vocalists have



Caption: Renowned soprano Alicia Berneche will be joined by Emily Barnash, Trenton Baker and Christopher Richard in a concert featuring songs from Broadway's best musicals. The performance takes place February 23rd at Irving Park Lutheran Church.

performed with Music Theater Works. Fans of Broadway musicals won't want to miss this performance!

The concert will be held at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave., at 2:00 p.m. A reception with the artists will follow the concert, hosted by the Fine Arts Committee. The final concert of the season will be held on April 26th with Drums of Africa performing an interactive demonstration. Concerts are free of charge, but donations are gladly welcomed.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series is in its 26th season of bringing 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 non-profit serving the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. For more information, visit carlsoncommunityservices.org or contact Liz Mills at 773-398-6766.

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Registration for 2020 t-ball, baseball, and softball leagues at Gompers Park is now open!

Registration for the younger divisions ends on February 14. Major girls softball and Pony boys baseball registration will close on March 13. This is a great, competitive league with eight divisions of t-ball, baseball, and softball for kids ages 5-16 in a fun, supportive, and inclusive environment. Games are played on the fields at Gompers Park and at Eugene Field Park. Email gpaachicago@gmail.com with ouestions.

Basketball for 40+ on Sundays

Did you know that there are local basketball pick-up games for neighbors 40 and over? The games take place at the gymnasium of Irving Park Lutheran Church every Sunday from 2 to 3 pm. Participation is \$5 per Sunday, collect in cash at time of play. For more information, contact steveomans@gmail.com to be put on an ongoing email list. The Irving Park Lutheran Church Gymnasium is located at 4057 N. Harding.

Filament Theatre presents FORTS: Build Your Own Adventure

Filament Theatre's immersive play experience for families, FORTS: Build Your Own Adventure, is showing through March 15. FORTS welcomes families to build, imagine, and play together in an interactive play space. Single tickets and birthday packages are now available at filamenttheatre.org/forts.

Adult night: Due to popular demand, Filament also offers BYOB adult-only nights for adults 21+ looking to reconnect with their inner child! Adult nights will be held on Saturdays in February at 7:30 p.m. Filament Theatre is located at 4041 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Camera Clinic at Pursuit Supply Company

Pursuit Supply Company will be hosting a Camera Clinic on February 15th. Bring your camera to get checked out and come chat with other analog lovers! Pursuit Supply is located at 4316 W. Irving Park Rd.

Neighbors Night Out February 21

Need a bit of warmth during a cold stretch of winter? Join us for a night out with your neighbors! GIPNA's annual Neighbors Night Out will be held on Friday, February 21, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. at a local tavern, The Cabin at Old Irving, 4104 N. Pulaski. Our Neighbors Night is the best way meet your neighbors and break out from the monotony of winter.

Want To Know How Your Dollars Are Being Invested?

The Office of the Chicago City Treasurer will be hosting a series of investment town halls during the month of February to ensure residents have an opportunity to learn how their taxpayer dollars are invested and to highlight the various economic development investments made and resources offered by the Office in 2020. The town halls will also feature products and programs available through our partnering financial institutions for residents seeking small business loans. The event takes place Saturday, February 29th, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at Albany Park Branch Library, 3401 W. Foster Ave.

City of Chicago Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Ervin is deeply committed to financial transparency and believes each resident should truly understand how the City invests taxpayer dollars as well as how the Office of the City Treasurer helps to drive social impact across the City.

Party for the Park - Athletic Field Park, Feb. 29

Athletic Field Party for the Park will be on Saturday, Feb 29th, from 5 pm to 9 pm, at Extensions Dance Center, located at 3933 N. Elston. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$40 at the door. Admission includes appetizers and two drinks. Go to athleticfieldpark.com to purchase your tickets online. All proceeds benefit the Athletic Field Park. For more information, email AthleticFieldAdvisoryCouncil@gmail.com.





St. John's Lutheran School

St John's Lutheran School, PreK3 through 8th grade, is accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year.

Our doors are open from 9 am to 3pm on Tuesdays! Stop in for a tour and admissions consultation. Phone the office at 773-736-1196 or email office@stjohnschicago.org for more information.

St. Edward School

Attention St. Edward School Alumni! Do you want to give back to your school? Now is your opportunity, thanks to a donation from a St. Edward alum, all donations to this year's Fund-a-Need for new classroom furniture will be matched dollar for dollar! This is such exciting news and will help us achieve our goal of new furniture for our classrooms, teachers, and students twice as fast! You can get more information and donate via the St. Edward School website: stedwardchicago.org/fund-a-need.html. Thank you for your support!

Chicago Bibles & Books

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Monday to Saturday 10-6 www.biblesandbooks.com



"Come now and let us reason together,



says Jehovah.

Though your

sins are like

scarlet, they

will be as

white as snow..." *Isaiah 1:18*

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This year, St. Edward School celebrates 110 years of providing a Catholic education to children in grades PK3 – 8th grade! Join us for Welcome Wednesday, March 4, with registration beginning at 8:30am in the main school building, 4343 W. Sunnyside. Meet our principal, teachers and students! Sign-up at www.stedwardschool.com. St. Edward School is a 2017 recipient of the National Blue Ribbon. Before and after school care is available.

For more information, please visit our website at www. stedwardschool.com or call us at 773-736-9133. Our campus is located at 4343 W. Sunnyside Avenue, easily accessible with close proximity to the Kennedy and Edens expressways, walking distance from the Blue Line, Metra station and the Montrose and Cicero Avenue bus lines.

Schurz High School

Calling All Professionals! Schurz is seeking professionals to meet with students to discuss their careers over the next several months.

Speakers will meet with 10-20 students during one 50 minute period between approximately 11:15 am - 2 pm. (You do not need to use the entire period). Students will sign up in advance to participate. If you are able to stay for more than one session, even better! If you'd like to participate but need to present earlier in the day, please send Dee Barrett an email (dibarrett@cps.edu) and we will work on making those arrangements.

Each speaker will meet with students in The Schurz Professional Network room (214), where presenters will have access to Mac computers, a projector and screen, as well as Chrome books for group activities.

Our goal is to expose students to a variety of careers and give them the opportunity to connect with adults on a personal level. We would also love to be able to present to our bi-lingual students, so please indicate on the form whether you are able to present in another language.

Please fill out the Google form below if you are interested, and we will contact you for more details. Go to: http://bit.ly/careerspeakercalendar

The CPS Office of School Counseling and Postsecondary Advising requires that our Career Day/Post-Secondary Representative speakers fill out this VERY BRIEF (4 questions) form http://bit.ly/postsecondaryscreeningform prior to their arrival at the school. The process to become a Level 1 or Level 2 volunteer is different. For more information about THAT process please visit www. chicagopublicschools.civicore.com.



Continued from page 4

At the conclusion of the meeting, Alderman Rodriguez invited residents of the 33rd Ward to vote in participatory budgeting on site.

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 are held on the third Wednesday of the month and typically last one hour. The next regularly scheduled meeting for Beat 1723 is Wednesday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. 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

Hiring Fair February 15

Concordia Place is having a Hiring Fair on Saturday, Feburary 15 from 10 am to 1 pm at 3300 N. Whipple. There will be on-site interviews and hiring. Full-time, part-time and on-call positions are available. Please bring your resumes and transcripts. For more information, visit https://www.concordiaplace.org/ or call 773-463-1600.



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WWCA Members

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

Dave & Kathy Schreiber

It's Membership Renewal Time!

WWCA MEMBERSHIP runs May I 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!

You can also pay your WWCA dues with either PayPal or a credit card at the West Walker website (www.westwalker.org)!



Follow West Walker Civic Association on Facebook!

Bring your 2019-2020 dues to our next WWCA meeting. Or you can mail in the application below.

		CIATION MEMBERS Tective May 1, 2019 through Apr	
Check one:	FAMILY \$15	BUSINESS \$20	SENIOR \$5
(Please print. Write		e it to appear in the West Walker V	 Wire.)
Please note your 6	-mail address if you would lik	e to receive e-mail updates:	
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We encourage you to stop by if you need help accessing state services and to share your thoughts and ideas on ways to improve our community and state.



Jaime Andrade, State Representative, 40th District

