

WEST WALKER WIRE

OCTOBER 2022

www.westwalker.org

Halloween Hauntings and Happenings

From family-friendly events like trunk-n-treat and parades to haunted houses and fall festivals, there's spooky good fun for everyone to enjoy in and around our neighborhood on the northwest side of the city. Check them out...if you dare!

Campfire Horrors at North Park Village: Beetlejuice (PG)

Friday, October 21, 7-8:30 pm

North Park Village Nature Center Park, 5801 N. Pulaski Rd.

Roast marshmallows over a crackling campfire and enjoy a scary movie under the cool autumn sky. This event is outside, weather permitting. Please dress warmly and bring blankets to keep warm.

Trunk-n-Treat at McFetridge

Saturday, October 22, 3-5 pm

McFetridge Sports Center, 3843 N. California Ave.

Trick-or-treat in a safe neighborhood setting followed by fun-filled activities when your treat bag is full! This event is free but registration is required: chicagoparkdistrict.com/events/trunk-n-treat-mcfetridge.

Halloween Arts & Crafts at Eugene Field

Wednesday, October 26, 5-5:45 pm & 6-6:45 pm

Eugene Field Park, 5100 N. Ridgeway Ave.

Get crafty and make some Halloween-themed projects! \$10 entry fee. Register at chicagoparkdistrict.com/events/halloween-arts-crafts-eugene-field-0 (for kids 3-6 from 5-5:45 pm) and chicagoparkdistrict.com/events/halloween-arts-crafts-eugene-field (for kids 6-12 from 6-6:45 pm).

Continued on page 3

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tues., Oct. 18 • 6 pm (via Zoom)

Free Credit Building Workshop w/ North River Commission & Wintrust Bank
RSVP to Erika at 872-257-8773 or erika@northrivercommission.org

Tues., Oct. 18 • 7 pm

Independence Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
East side of Fieldhouse
3945 N. Springfield Ave.

Wed., Oct. 19 • 6:30 pm

Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting (In Person)
17th District Community Room
4650 N. Pulaski Rd.

Sat., Oct. 22 • 7 pm

Carlson's Trivia Night Fundraiser
Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym
4057 N. Harding Ave.
CarlsonTrivia2022.eventbrite.com

Sun., Oct. 23 • 9 am-1 pm

GIPNA Farmers Market
Independence Park Road at Hamlin

Sat., Nov. 12 • 4-7 pm

9th Annual GIPNA Wine & Cheese Party
Color Club
4146 N. Elston Ave., 2nd Floor
Tickets available at gipna.org

Sun., Nov. 13 • 9:30 am

Kidical Mass Bike Ride to Leaf Pile
Meet at Independence Park Playground
(corner of Grace and Hamlin)
chicagofamilybiking.org/events

Sun., Nov. 13 • 2 pm

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee
Presents Celebrating Sondheim
Irving Park Lutheran Church
4100 N. Harding Ave.
Free Admission, Donations Welcome

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

WITHIN THE WIRE...

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Dear Neighbor,

Vote

Vote!

VOTE!

November 8, 2022

Why should I vote? The right to vote, essential to a well-functioning democracy, is the most enshrined right in the Constitution and is protected by five separate Amendments. The law does not require citizens to vote, but voting is a very important part of any democracy. By voting, citizens are participating in the democratic process. Citizens vote for leaders to represent them and their ideas, and the leaders support the citizens' interests. These days, it seems that the very act of voting has come under attack. Fortunately, Illinois has not suffered the voting turmoil of Georgia, Arizona, Michigan, Wisconsin, and other states. Voting for leaders and representatives who support voting rights and voting access in Illinois and in the United States helps everyone.

Who am I voting for? On the Federal ballot, one of our Senators and eleven U.S. Representatives are up for election. On the State side of the ballot, Illinois Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer, and State Senators and Representatives. For a full listing of all candidates and offices, go to: <https://www.cookcountyclerk.gov/elections/current-elections/view-all-candidates>.

How do I know if I am registered vote? Go to: <https://chicagoelections.gov/en/home.html> and click on the "Voting" tab and then select "Your Voting Information." Enter your address and you will see your registration status. You will also see instructions to register if you are not currently registered.

Where do I vote? Again, go to: <https://chicagoelections.gov/en/home.html> and click on the "Voting" tab and then select "Your Voting Information." Enter your address and you will see the names of anyone registered to vote in your household. Click on a name, and your polling place information will be displayed.

See you at our polling place!

Mike Webber

WWCA President, Pro Tem



**Follow West Walker
Civic Association
on Facebook!**

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*

2022-2023 OFFICERS

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773.539.8346

Vice President Pro Tem Davor Engel
dengel@studiodo.com

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Will & Caitlin Poirier

Jeanne Pozy & Joel Reese

Rick & Melanie Reschke

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The Webber Family

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EDITOR

Heather McLane

WEST WALKER EMAIL BLASTS

Vacant

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 shannan@solsticepr.com.

Continued from front page

The Catacombs Haunted House

Friday, October 21, 7-11 pm
Saturday, October 22, 7-11 pm
Sunday, October 23, 7-10 pm
Thursday, October 27, 7-10 pm *\$5 Night*
Friday, October 28, 7-11 pm
Saturday, October 29, 7-11 pm
Sunday, October 30, 7-10 pm
St. Pascal's Church Basement, 6143 W. Irving Park Rd.
Bring your friends and family and join the St. Pascal School Community at this spook-tacular 40-year tradition! Fundraising efforts benefit Pope Francis Global Academy. Tickets at scarypopcorn.com/index.html.

17th District Halloween Event

Saturday, October 29, 10 am
17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski Ave.
Join the 17th District Chicago Police Department for arts and crafts, candy, a "spooky lock-up," and more!

Old Irving Park Association Costume Parade

Saturday, October 29, 10 am
Meet at the northeast corner of Kedvale and Grace
Join the Old Irving Park Association for their 3rd annual neighborhood costume parade and decoration viewing.

Khepri Cafe's Halloween Bash!

Saturday, October 29, 11 am-3 pm
4650 N. Kedzie Ave.
Join us for pumpkin decorating, arts and crafts, drink specials, costume contests, and a special spooky-themed photo booth courtesy of Courtney Michelle Photography with donations going to Nourishing Hope Food Bank. Open to families and all ages! For more details, email info@khepricaf.com or follow @khepricafe on Instagram.

Halloween Happenings at Sauganash

Monday, October 31, 4-5 pm
Sauganash Park, 5861 N. Kostner Ave.
Treat yourself to a boo-tiful family-friendly Halloween Party at the park. There will be games, treats & lots of fun. Make sure to come dressed in costume!



REAL ESTATE NEWS



By Dorie Westmeyer
Realtor®, MBA, ADPR

Your Neighborhood Realtor!

Why Price Your Home at Fair Market Value

The real estate market is starting to change, primarily due to rising mortgage rates. In Irving Park, the number of homes for sale has increased slightly and the time to sell is longer. It is still a sellers' market, but we're seeing fewer multiple offers. Buyers feel less pressure to make an offer right away and have more opportunity to negotiate.

One of the strategies we can implement to motivate a buyer and help you get the highest sale price is pricing your home at fair market value.

"Homes priced right are selling very quickly, but homes priced too high are deterring prospective buyers." — Lawrence Yun, Chief Economist, NAR

"We can see that demand is still there for the homes that are priced properly." — Mike Simonsen, CEO, Altos Research

Source: KCM

If you price your home too high, it deters buyers, your home sits on the market, and eventually you end up reducing the price. While you may appeal to a new group of buyers at a lower price, they will want to negotiate further. The longer a home sits on the market, buyers tend to wonder why it isn't selling. Pricing your home fairly from the start will generate more interested buyers with stronger offers. Hiring a Realtor who knows our neighborhood, provides a thorough analysis, and is an expert in marketing and sales strategy is key.

If you are thinking of selling in the next 24 months and want strategies on how to compete in today's market, besides lowering your asking price, call me for a free home consultation.

Dorie Westmeyer
CHARLES RUTENBERG REALTY
847-989-4870 · Dorie@DorieWestmeyer.com

CAPS Report

Beats 1722 & 1723

September 21, 2022 Meeting – In-Person

In attendance: CAPS Officer Amy Barnes, CAPS Officer John Becker, Erika Wozniak, Ald. Nugent's Office (39th), a Neighborhood Services Representative from Ald. Rosanna Rodriguez's office (33rd)

CAPS Officer Darryel Boone was at a training session, and CAPS Officer Jerry Zanders is retiring, so Officers Barnes and Becker filled in.

The officers discussed ongoing theft of catalytic converters. The older the vehicle, the more platinum or other metals are in it. The Prius is the #1 target, as well as other Toyotas, Acuras and Hondas.

A resident inquired about the shooting of an off-duty officer at Elston & Addison. The offender's auto was found on the northwest side. The officers weren't able to share any updates since it's an ongoing investigation.

Erika from Ald. Nugent's office spoke about the Ward's recent catalytic converter painting service provided by the 16th & 17th Districts and The Cook County Sheriff's Office. More will be offered, and the 39th Ward hopes to track whether painting the catalytic converters pink leads to a decline in thefts. In addition, on the heels of extensive flooding in the 39th Ward, a community meeting is being scheduled with the Department of Water Management.

Officers Barnes and Becker reviewed notable arrests. On August 10, an arrest for aggravated battery was made in the 2900 block of W. Irving Park. Two residents have been charged in Federal Court for carjackings. One lives in the 17th District and is known to the police.

On September 15 at 11 pm, there was a homicide in the 4800 block of Drake. The victim lived in the 4700 block of Springfield. The homicide was part of a gang conflict between the Familia Stones and Spanish Gangster Disciples. Year-to-date, homicides are up by three, compared with last year.

A resident asked if there was any update to the shooting at Schurz High School that occurred in the first week or

Continued on page 9

Is It Still a Good Time to Sell Your Home?

Yes! It's still a sellers' market. And with my unique 5-step marketing plan, my sellers are getting top dollar for their homes.



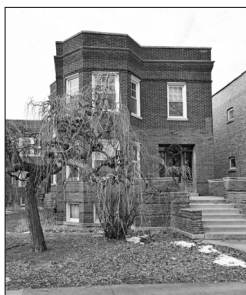
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4113 N Lawndale



SOLD

3752 N Lawndale



SOLD

4240 N Monticello



SOLD

4110 N Avers

"Dorie is amazing to work with. She is knowledgeable, professional and makes the process so easy. Dorie stayed on top of all the details, allowing us to be fully present in all things related to the move and sale of our home. We would recommend Dorie for any of your real estate needs and would definitely use her again." – Vickie Walker

If you're thinking of selling in the next 24 months, and want to know about possible repairs & improvements to make, please call me for a free home consultation.



Dorie Westmeyer
Realtor,® MBA, ADPR
Your Neighborhood Realtor

Neighbor since 1995 · 847-989-4870 · CHARLES RUTENBERG REALTY · Dorie@DorieWestmeyer.com

Irving Park Lutheran Church

Free Flu Shots at IPLC Sunday, October 23

A Walgreens' pharmacist will be offering flu shots here at IPLC on Sunday, October 23, from 9 am-noon. They'll accept Medicare, Medicaid, some private insurance and will also have vouchers on hand for 50 free flu shots. Please spread the word and thank you to Angie Casillas-Colunga for connecting the pharmacist with us.

Confirmation/Reformation Sunday, October 30

After two years of study, service, and growth in community, on the last Sunday in October our 9th grade Confirmation student Geo Monroe with affirm his faith (the rite of Confirmation). Geo will have a special leadership role in worship that day, which is also Reformation Sunday, and there will be special musical elements as well, including "A Mighty Fortress."

All Saints Sunday, November 6: Naming Loved Ones, Bell Banners

On All Saints Sunday (November 6 this year) we'll remember people who have died, naming them aloud in worship, ringing bells, and processing with our special All Saints Day Bell Banners. Please email the office names to speak aloud prior to All Saints Sunday at office@iplc.org. You may also write the name of someone who has died and attach it to a bell. You can bring in your own small bell, or use bells provided in the narthex.

40-and-Over Basketball is Back!

Sundays, Starting October 9

2:30-4:30 pm

Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym, 4057 N. Harding Ave.

Bring a friend and join ChitownBasketball.com for a 40-and-over basketball league. Weekly entry fee is \$10 per player (cash or Venmo at the door), which goes to Irving Park Lutheran Church. Contact Steve Omans at steveomans@gmail.com for more information.



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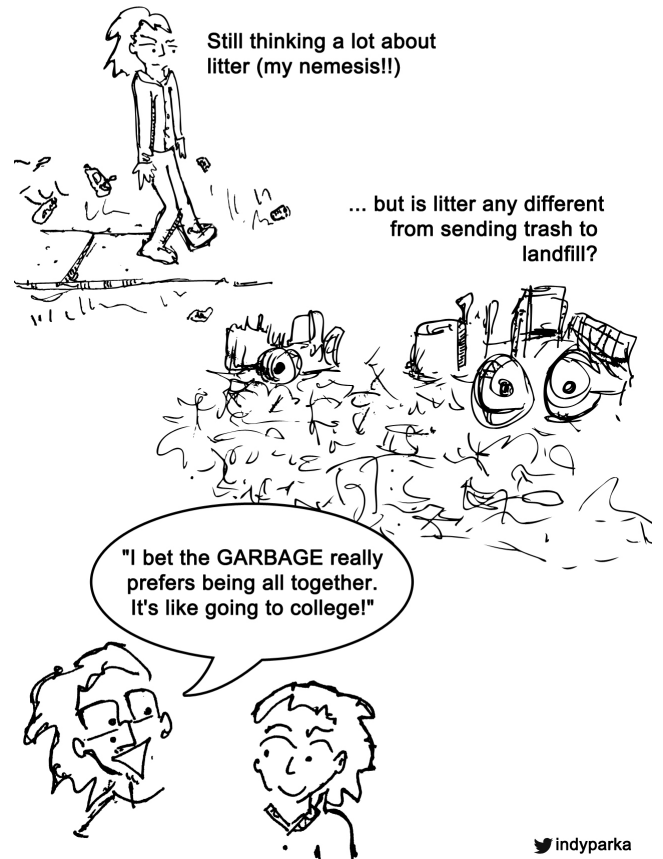


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Independence Parka

by erica dreisbach



Still thinking a lot about
litter (my nemesis!!)

... but is litter any different
from sending trash to
landfill?

"I bet the GARBAGE really
prefers being all together.
It's like going to college!"

indyparka

News and Events from Carlson Community Services



**Carlson
Community
Services**

Carlson Community Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit connecting

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

Golf Outing Fundraiser Thanks!

Thanks to the golfers, hole sponsors, raffle prize donors, and helpers who made Carlson's 2022 Golf Outing a success! Golfers enjoyed a beautiful day in September at Edgebrook Golf Course, had loads of fun, and helped raise nearly \$3,500 for Carlson programs.

Congratulations to Bill Sherlock, Michael Jordan, and West Walker residents Rick Reschke and Steve Mills on their 7-under-par outing win. And to Tod McElhany on an incredible hole-in-one! A relaxing pizza picnic and beverages followed the 18 holes.

Thanks to our generous hole sponsors: The Fishguy Market, Wintrust Bank Mayfair, Free Range Insurance, CrossFit Chisel, Pastor Erin Bouman, Marcy Sherrill, Heartland Bank & Trust, Attorney Michael Jordan, Uncle Bobby's Tavern, The Cabin at Old Irving and Gardens at the Cabin, Verizon Business, and Blu Commercial Cleaning. Sincere thanks to the many Carlson board members and volunteers who contributed raffle prizes, golfed, and helped with the event!

Trivia Night is BACK! Live & In-Person 10/22

Carlson Community Services will return to in-person Trivia on Saturday, October 22 at 7 pm to raise funds for neighborhood programs. After two-and-a-half years of virtual contests, we're excited to gather in-person again!

Since our first Trivia Night in 2009, neighbors and friends have been putting their heads together to benefit Carlson's after-school program, community garden, and concert series. Teams of 8 can purchase a table for \$280 (\$300 after October 19). Wine, beer, and soda will be sold at the bar. Bring your own snacks! Teams compete for a \$200 cash prize and bragging rights!

The event takes place at the Irving Park Lutheran Church gym, 4057 N. Harding Ave., and is open to adults 21 and over. For more information, or to register your team, visit CarlsonTrivia2022.eventbrite.com.

It's a great night out...get your team together now!



Top left: Congrats to the winners of the 2022 Carlson Golf Outing! From left are Steve Mills, Mike Jordan, Rick Reschke, and Bill Sherlock. Top right: Carlson's Three Brothers Garden was recognized at the Chicago Excellence in Gardening Awards (CEGA) ceremony. From left are Rebecca Haneberg, Liz Mills, and CEGA organizer Mike Nowak. Bottom: Don't miss out on Carlson Trivia Night, live and in person for the first time in 3 years! Pictured at the 2019 contest are "The Quad."

Three Brothers Garden honored by Chicago Excellence in Gardening Awards

Carlson Community Services' community garden was honored at the Chicago Excellence in Gardening Awards (CEGA) ceremony held in late September at Wild Blossom Meadery. Awards were presented to 67 gardens throughout Chicago. Three Brothers Garden was presented an all-weather sign and certificate in the Community Garden category. Carlson Executive Director Liz Mills and garden volunteer Rebecca Haneberg attended the ceremony. Many thanks to all the volunteers and supporters who keep the garden growing!

Carlson Community Services connects 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 lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org.

News from Irving Park Community Food Pantry

By Craig Shutt

Pantry Coat Drive Begins in October

The Irving Park Food Pantry this month will begin its annual coat drive and is asking its supporters to donate new and lightly used winter coats so that our clients in the 60641 and 60618 ZIP codes can help their families prepare for the cold weather.

We will begin giving out coats mid-month and continue into November, with the final distribution on November 16. We are accepting winter coats, along with hats, scarves, mittens, and other cold-weather gear. Please do not donate sweaters, sweatshirts, boots, or other clothing.

Donations can be taken to:

- 16th District–Jefferson Park Police Station, 5151 N. Milwaukee Ave.
- 17th District–Albany Park Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski Rd.
- Big Helpers store, 4184 N. Elston Ave. (10 am–4 pm, Monday–Friday)
- Disney II Magnet School, 3815 N. Kedvale Ave. (inside main entrance, 8:30 am–3:30 pm)
- Disney II Magnet High School, 3900 Lawndale Ave. (inside main entrance, 8:45 am–3:45 pm)
- Irving Park YMCA, 4251 W. Irving Park Rd. (drop box in lobby)
- Jet’s Pizza, 3951 N. Kimball Ave. (drop box in waiting area)
- J.T.’s Genuine Sandwich Shop, 3970 N. Elston Ave. (closed Mondays)
- Old Irving Brewing Company, 4419 W. Montrose Ave. (noon–10 pm)
- Perkulator Coffee, 6032 W. Irving Park Rd.
- Front Porch at 3822 N. Tripp Ave. (anytime)

Other drop-off points will be announced on our Facebook page. If you have a large donation or want to run a drive to gather coats, please email info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org for suggestions or to arrange delivery.

The Pantry Client Services Coordinator Elvia Esparza is working with DoorDash’s Project DASH (DoorDash Acts for Sustainability & Hunger) to provide free delivery of food orders to 20 additional homebound clients each month. The drivers take the bags we make up to each client’s door. The Pantry is one of the few in the area in the program and we hope to expand it as we work out the logistics.



Merchant Park Community Garden donates produce each week to the Pantry from its garden at 3568 N. Keeler Ave. These baskets came in one week in August. Photos by John Psiharis



Client Services Coordinator Elvia Esparza looks over 100+ bags of groceries the Pantry put together for new homebound clients starting in August. They were delivered for free by DoorDash drivers as part of its new program to help pantries. Photo by Craig Shutt



Above left: Rachel Kimpton of Bricktown Farms holds a tray of seedlings donated to the Pantry in August. Lisa Hendricks coordinated the donation and helped give them out to clients. Above right: Laura Barnes holds up some disposable masks donated by Chicago Hope Pantry. Left: State Representative Lindsay LaPointe and staffers stopped by to volunteer and talk with Pantry Executive Director John Psiharis. Photos by Craig Shutt



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Neighborhood School News



St. Edward School

Homecoming Returns

Homecoming was back in full force this year with a five-day spirit week that

culminated with a homecoming Saturday, featuring a Mass, parade, football game, and homecoming dance. We were so happy to bring the community of alumni in North Mayfair and beyond back together to celebrate their connection to the school and Parish.



St. Edward Scouts serve pig roast plates to families at Harvest Bash.



The St. Edward varsity football team takes on the IC Cowboys during St. Ed's homecoming at Gompers Park field.



Neighbors enjoy a beautiful fall night with the sounds of Kevin Purcell and the Nightburners at Harvest Bash.



The St. Edward varsity football team runs onto Gompers Park field for St. Ed's homecoming.

Harvest Bash Offered Food, Drinks, and Fun

St. Ed's also rejuvenated their annual Harvest Bash earlier this month. The Parish was able to offer a classic pig roast as well as Vietnamese fare along with live music, kids' games, and a craft beer and wine tent. The party went rocking through the night fueled by the swamp boogie blues sounds of Kevin Purcell and the Nightburners (thanks to a new partnership with the Windy City Blues Society).

St. Edward Walkathon: Friday, October 19

Support St. Edward's award-winning programs and keep

them affordable for our neighborhood families. Students will be walking around the neighborhood and school campus to raise funds during this annual event. For more information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/22STEdsWalkathon>

November Look Ahead

Knights of Columbus Bingo Night is returning for its 2nd year at St. Ed's on November 12 at 6:30 pm. Christmas Wreath and Poinsettia sales will begin in mid-November. And finally, St. Ed's Advent raffle will launch on November 28. Follow-us on Facebook @STEdParish for up-to-date announcements.

St. Edward School celebrates 113 years of providing award-winning Catholic education to children in grades PK3-8th grade.

Registration continues to be open for the 2022-2023 school year. You can contact office@stedwardschool.com to schedule an in-person tour or individual Zoom tour with our principal. St. Edward School is a 2017 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School with small class sizes and attention to each individual student. For more information, please visit our website at www.stedwardschool.com or call the office at 773-736-9133 to learn more about our outstanding academic programs and extended care.

Continued from page 4

two of school. No update was available. It's believed the shooting was the result of a conflict between the two gangs previously mentioned.

Ald. Nugent and Ald. Rosanna Rodriguez worked with the city to house 100 migrants from Venezuela bused to North Park Village. The migrants are being housed and provided for throughout the city.

An informational session titled Smart 911 will be held to discuss 311/911 calls. The session will be held October 5 at 7 pm at Jensen Park, 4650 N. Lawndale. A self-defense class will be held Saturday, November 19 from 9-10:30 am at Kilbourn Park, 3501 N. Kilbourn.

Chicago Police Department is offering cash rewards for tips leading to charges and convictions. \$5,000 for tips leading to gun trafficking charges and convictions and up to \$15,000 for tips leading to homicide charges and convictions. Callers are 100% anonymous. The number to call to leave a tip is 833-408-0069.

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 rely on the number of calls for service in determining the allocation of officers to a district. **The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 19 at 6:30 pm** in the 17th District Community Room, 4650 N. Pulaski.

Remember to always lock your vehicle; never leave it running unattended. Be on the lookout for scams involving COVID-19 cures, and scams related to income tax refunds. Remember, the IRS will never call you on the phone.



Here's how to reach or follow the 17th District CAPS office:
Facebook: facebook.com/CAPS.017
Twitter: @ChicagoCAPS17
Instagram: cpd17district
Email: CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org
Phone: 312-742-4588

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DONATION DROP OFF: We are now collecting donations on behalf of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. M-F 10AM-4PM / 4184 N. Elston Ave Chicago, IL. 60618

WWCA Members

THANK YOU! Here's a list of neighbors who have joined or renewed as of June:

Donald & Mary Chun
Jane Nagle & Rich McDermott

Do You Have a Submission for the Wire?

The West Walker Wire welcomes ads and articles from all of you! The deadline is always seven days prior to the first of the month. The November issue's deadline will be October 25. Please keep contributions down to about 1/2 page of news (or approximately 400 words). Submit to: Wire Editor, west_walker_wire@yahoo.com. If you're interested in placing an ad, contact Shannan Bunting at shannan@solsticepr.com.

Please note: If you're sending articles or information about an event, please make sure it's in a Word or Google document or the text is directly in the body of the email. Unless your contribution is a Wire paid advertisement, it should not be in PDF format.

You can also post your events on our online community calendar at: westwalker.org/calendar.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at west_walker_wire@yahoo.com.

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 email updates on neighborhood events, area crime, and a LOT MORE!

Stay Current with West Walker Blasts!
To submit an announcement or get on the list, email wwcablasts@gmail.com today!

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

Let them know you saw them in the West Walker Wire.

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

Mail in your 2022/2023 dues along with the application below.

WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yearly Membership Dues: Effective May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023

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 email address if you would like to receive email updates:

EMAIL: _____

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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Thank you to Chicago Hope Pantry, which serves a large area around us, for their donation of nearly 1,000 disposable masks for our clients. Thanks also to Alderman Samantha Nugent, who donated a large supply of KN95 masks for our volunteers.

Thank you to Merchant Park Community Garden and Three Brothers Garden, run by Carlson Community Services, for doing weekly harvests of herbs and produce for the Pantry all summer.

Thanks also to Bricktown Farm for its donation of seedlings for clients and to the small farms that donate for our Wednesday distribution after the Lincoln Square Farmers Market on Tuesday. They include Compean & Sons, Dotson's Farm and Lafavor Farm & Greenhouses.

We appreciate all the donations to provide clients with fresh produce and ways to grow their own!

We appreciate everyone's continued support that allows us to continue our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"

Filament Theatre Announces New Artistic Leadership

Filament Theatre Artistic Director Julie Ritchey, who co-founded the innovative theater for young audiences, is stepping down as she and her family embark on a new adventure. Filament's board of directors is pleased to announce the hiring of Filament resident artists Molly Bunder and Rejinal Simon as co-artistic directors of the Northwest Side theater.

"After eight years watching and supporting Filament's growth, I am excited to accept this new role," said Bunder, who had served as Filament's education director, where she conceptualized and executed several new and expanded programs to welcome young people into the artistic process. "As families return to live performance, we will continue to reimagine theater for young audiences and to make space and time for connection and community."

Simon added, "As a younger performer fresh out of undergraduate school, Filament is the first professional setting in which I felt seen, fully, as an artist and an individual. It is my hope to share this feeling with every single person who walks through Filament's doors. In joining this graciously bold team of creators, I look forward to continuing to invest in Filament's stakeholders, expanding our community and the families we reach." In

his previous role as associate artistic director, Reji led and motivated production teams, ensuring that productions could be safe, supportive and fulfilling for both artists and audiences during and after the pandemic.

Both Bunder and Simon view theater as a tool for community engagement and empowerment—a core principle of their shared vision for Filament. In her new position, Bunder will expand and oversee the role of young people as dramaturgs, curators, and essential collaborators on Filament productions—borrowing from her more than 10 years of experience as a teaching artist and professional actor. As a casting director, performer, producer, and founding member of Filament's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access committee, Simon's role will pay particular attention to the experiences of the theater's adult professional artists.

In recent years, Filament has deepened its artistic vision through commitment to youth leadership, launching the internationally acclaimed SPARK program in which young people curate the theater's new-work commissions and then collaborate on the projects alongside professional artists. Decentralizing artistic leadership is the next major step in Filament's efforts to build a business model that authentically centers the perspectives of young people.

"For 15 years, Julie has been an extraordinary founding artistic director for Filament Theatre. Her talent and creativity as a storyteller have won critical praise and built a loyal audience that returns to Filament again and again, even during a global pandemic," said Jackie Intres, president of Filament's board of directors. "However, it has been her tireless pursuit of a company that embraces radical collaboration with young people that will truly be her lasting legacy and contribution to the Chicago theater community as well as to the international community of theaters for young audiences. The board of directors is truly grateful for her visionary leadership."

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are thrilled to welcome Molly Bunder and Rejinal Simon as Filament's new co-artistic directors. Together, we believe the care and commitment they have demonstrated for the Filament community, their artistic vision and their wide range of leadership experiences make them the perfect combination to lead Filament into our next chapter."

Ritchey will remain actively involved with the field of Theater for Young Audiences on a national and international scope as an independent director, playwright, educator, and advocate for the artform based out of Brisbane, Australia.

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