

# WEST WALKER WIRE

JUNE 2023

[www.westwalker.org](http://www.westwalker.org)

## Farmers' Market Season Returns!

The welcome return of warm breezy days and clear blue skies also means farmers' markets return to our neighborhood parks. Shop the season's best fruits and vegetables, yummy baked goods, freshly roasted coffee, delectable cheeses, handmade pasta, plus live music, yoga, activities for kids and their families, and much, much more! Mark your calendars!

### Independence Park

9 am-1 pm on 2nd and 4th Sundays, June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23, August 13 & 27, September 10 & 24, October 8 & 22

### Portage Park (4000-4100 N. Long Ave.)

10 am-2 pm on 1st and 3rd Sundays, June 4 & 18, July 16 & 30, August 6 & 20, September 3 & 17, October 1

### Jefferson Park Sunday Market (4818 N. Long Ave.)

9:30 am-1:30 pm on 2nd and 4th Sundays, June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23, August 13 & 27, September 10 & 24, October 8 & 22  
Wildlight Yoga holds a free class at 9:30 am each week, weather permitting.

### Northwest Side Farmers Market

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave.  
9:30 am-1:30 pm on these Sundays: July 2, September 3, October 15 & 29

### Horner Park (2741 W. Montrose Ave. at California Ave.)

9 am-1 pm on Saturdays from June 3 to October 14  
Free yoga class held at 10 am each week in the grassy area adjacent to the market, weather permitting.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Sun., June 11 & 25 • 9 am-1 pm

GIPNA Farmers' Market  
Independence Park  
Springfield Ave. & Irving Park Rd.

### Fri., June 16 • 8:30 pm

Free Movie in Independence Park:  
Wayne's World (1993)

### Sat., June 17 • 9-11 am

39th Ward Shredding Event &  
Safe Drug Disposal  
St. Edward's Church  
4350 N. Sunnyside Ave.

### Sat., June 17 • 9 am-4 pm

North Mayfair Garage Sale between  
Pulaski & Cicero, Lawrence & Foster

North Mayfair Plant Swap on Argyle  
between Kostner and Kenneth (south  
end of Palmer Elementary)  
[northmayfair.org/garage-sale.html](http://northmayfair.org/garage-sale.html)

### Sun., June 18 • 9 am-noon

GIPNA's 17th Annual Father's Day  
Gourmet Pancake Breakfast  
Independence Park Bungalow  
(Hamlin at Byron)  
\$10 Adults / \$7 Seniors / \$5 Kids  
12 and under

### Wed. June 21 • 5-7 pm

North River Commission's Flavors of  
Albany Park Restaurant Crawl  
Info and tickets at [bit.ly/Flavors\\_2023](http://bit.ly/Flavors_2023)

### Wed. June 21 • 6:30 pm

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

**See inside this issue for even  
more events in the neighborhood  
throughout the summer!**

You can also visit us online at:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/  
WestWalkerCivicAssocChicago/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WestWalkerCivicAssocChicago/)

## WITHIN THE WIRE...

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# Dear Neighbor,

**Hello, neighbors!** I'm excited to begin my term as your West Walker Civic Association (WWCA) President! My husband and I just started our eighth year living in West Walker and look forward to many more.

The new Executive Board and I are excited to work with you and for you to bring new ideas and perspectives to existing programming and events. We look forward to meeting our neighbors as the year goes on.

Thanks to all who participated in the garage sale last month, as well as to our volunteers for all their work coordinating the sale logistics and putting up/taking down garage sale signs throughout the weekend.

On July 4, the WWCA will sponsor a table at Independence Park during the bike parade. Please come by if you are in the park!

All of these types of events need volunteers, so please reach out to any of the Officers or Executive Board members if you are interested in volunteering.

Lastly, I'd like to take a second to thank all of our outgoing Officers and Executive Board members, some of whom have been volunteering their time for over 10+ years to the association. We wish them well and look forward to seeing them around the neighborhood!

**Happy summer to all and we will be back in September,**

*Erin Hunter*  
WWCA President

## 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*

### **2023-2025 OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	Erin Hunter
<b>Co-Vice Presidents</b>	Laura Ell & Helen Lira
<b>Secretary</b>	Stephen Brown
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sue Gregoire

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

Mike Webber & Dorie Westmeyer

### **CAPS COORDINATOR**

LizMills@sbcglobal.net

### **WEST WALKER CARRIER STAFF**

Chris & Maeve Altman  
Carol Barry  
Beverly Birch  
Tori Bohannon & John Lopez  
Kotche Family  
Desi Laslo  
Jim Medd  
Mark Pascale & Susan Matthews  
Will & Caitlin Poirier  
Jeanne Pozy & Joel Reese  
Rick & Melanie Reschke  
Jarett Tate  
The Webber Family  
Sue Trudeau & Tom Williams

### **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, articles and ads are due a week before the first of each month.**

**Submit ideas and articles 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.*

## Summer Fellowship & Fun with Irving Park Lutheran Church

### Burgers, Bags & Bonding Sundays at the Gym

Join us for fellowship and an easy dinner in front of and inside of the IPLC Gym early evenings the fourth Sundays of the month this summer: June 25, July 23 and August 27 from 5-7 pm. We'll pull out some tables and chairs, fire up some grills and provide burgers, hot dogs and condiments. You can bring a bag of chips, a watermelon, a salad, or some sort of summery beverage which might be just for adults—or just show up! We can play bags on the sidewalk or inside of the gym, we'll have activities for kids, and we'll enjoy one another's company in a laid-back summery way.

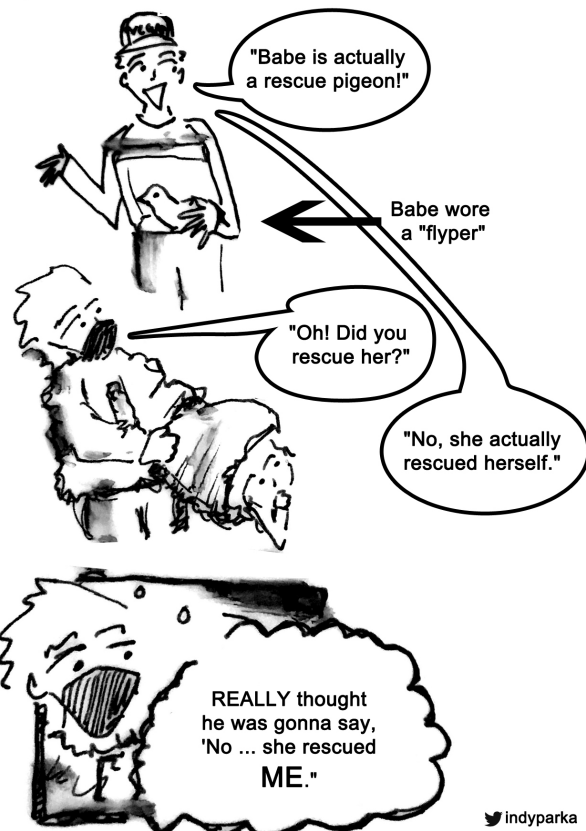
### Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic at Independence Park

On Sunday, July 16, from 9:30 am-noon, we'll have a 30-minute worship service and then a potluck brunch, followed by fellowship opportunities, including an all-ages game of kickball using an oversized ball, and various other activities especially for children (the organizer of these promises that when the morning is over kids will be wet, sticky and tired). Note: Bring a chair or picnic blanket!

*Continued on page 5*

## Independence Parka

by erica dreisbach



indyparka

## REAL ESTATE NEWS



By Dorie Westmeyer  
Realtor®, MBA, ADPR

*Your Neighborhood Realtor!*

### How's the Real Estate Market?

Hi Neighbors! I get asked how the real estate market is almost every day. Short answer—good!

The job market is strong and unemployment is very low at 3.4% (historically the average is 5.7%). Even with mortgage rates increasing from 3.5% to 6.5%, there are many buyers looking for homes. Most buyers realize rates will drop in about a year or so and then they can refinance. Some are buying down the rate for a year or two to lower their monthly payment until they refinance.

There is still a shortage of homes for sale so buyer demand is exceeding supply. In May 2022, there were 57 homes for sale in Irving Park. In May 2023 there are only 25 homes for sale.

In West Walker, my clients are receiving multiple offers and their homes are selling at 103% of asking price in about a week.

Here are some average West Walker sales stats:

Single-family home	\$577,000
Multi-family 2-4 units	\$638,000
Condo—2-bedroom	\$196,000

Keep in mind these are averages. Sale prices will vary depending on the number of bedrooms/baths, size of the home, home improvements, lot size, etc.

**If you are thinking of selling in the next 24 months, and want to get your highest sale price, please call me for a free home consultation.**

**Call Dorie, Your Neighborhood Realtor  
847-989-4870**

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

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**DONATION DROP OFF:** on behalf of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, Mon-Fri, 10 am-4 pm  
**4184 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL 60618**

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*"...Christ was raised from the dead...,so also we might walk in newness of life."*

Rom. 6:4



## If You've Been Thinking About Selling, Now Is the Time

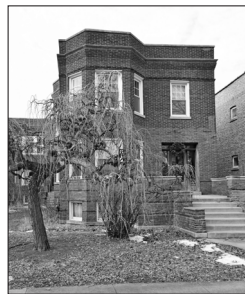
The best time to sell your house is when others aren't selling. And with my unique 5 step marketing plan and our strategy, my clients' homes are selling in about a week at 103% of asking price. *Source: MRED*



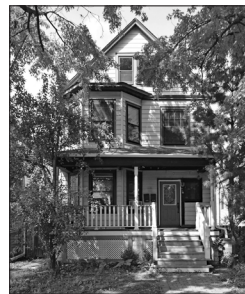
**UNDER CONTRACT**  
4310 N Springfield



**SOLD**  
4122 N Lawndale



**SOLD**  
3752 N Lawndale



**SOLD**  
4240 N Monticello



**SOLD**  
4113 N Lawndale

*"Dorie was a dream to work with! It was the first time I had sold a house & as a solo owner I needed someone to help me negotiate the steps. She took her time, went through the house & suggested which things I might want to spend money on before selling & which things weren't worth it. She suggested a price that was a few notches higher than I would've—but based on her experience in my neighborhood—and set up the open house. I got a cash offer for full asking price the next day. Dorie also helped me find an estate sale company to clear out the house & was always there to quickly respond to my questions and concerns. What a wonderful real estate agent! Highly, highly recommended." — Anne-Marie Concepcion*



Dorie Westmeyer  
Realtor,® MBA, ADPR  
Your Neighborhood Realtor

If you're thinking of selling in the next 24 months, call me for a free home consultation.

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Continued from page 3

## Seeking Donations to Support Migrants & Refugees Coming to Chicago

Donate diapers, suitcases, large bags and backpacks through July 9. As Chicago continues to respond to a large influx of migrants and refugees, and as IPLC is in touch with community organizations coordinating support for them, one thing that is always needed: disposable diapers. Also, as families and individuals are being moved from place to place, many have only plastic bags to transport and store things they're being given. Suitcases, large bags and backpacks are also most welcome, and gently used ones are just fine. You could even donate a suitcase full of diapers! Bring your donations of luggage and/or diapers to IPLC any time between now and Sunday, July 9, and we'll deliver them to our partner organizations.

## A Focus on Welcome During Pride Month

Pastor Brook Petersen, who served as pastor of IPLC from 2006–2012, went on to write a dissertation: "Religious Trauma: Queer Stories in Engagement and Return." She'll preach in worship on June 18, and afterwards share more about her research and experiences.

Pastor Michael Fick leads a Lutheran congregation in Edgewater that has been Reconciling in Christ (RIC) for decades. (RIC is a designation for Lutheran congregations that explicitly welcome people who are LGBTQIA+ and work to oppose racism and other forms of discrimination.) Pastor Fick will preach in worship on June 25, and afterwards share more about his work and experiences.

# CAPS Report

## Beats 1722 & 1723 May 17, 2023 Meeting

**In attendance:** CAPS Officer Miro; John Campos, CPD Community Organizer; Alderman Samantha Nugent and Samantha Brewer (39th); Joe Engleman (33rd Ward office)

Officer Miro started the meeting by inviting Ald. Nugent (39th) to speak since she had another meeting to attend. The Alderman is sponsoring a shredding and recycling event on June 17 from 9–11 am at St. Edward's Church, 4350 W. Sunnyside. They will also accept prescriptions for safe disposal. The Alderman addressed the migrant crisis and talked about Mayor Johnson's inauguration. Alderpersons are awaiting committee assignments.

Officer Miro went over some crime stats from Beat 1723 (all of West Walker is in Beat 1723). Motor vehicle thefts, especially Hyundais and Kias, continue to be an issue, as well as catalytic converter thefts. A 15-year-old gang member was shot and killed at Leland and Central Park. Residents questioned what is being done to get kids out of gangs. Joe Engleman (33rd Ward office) stated that violence interrupters are at work in the 33rd Ward and that programs and events for young people are being organized, including something for Memorial Day weekend. The purpose of violence interrupters is to diffuse conflicts. Officer Miro stated that every day a deployment box is established to focus on areas of concern. In the past three weeks, 100 investigative stop reports were made in the deployment box, resulting in 120 arrest and 6 arrests for weapons violations.

A resident inquired about a shooting at Montrose and Lawndale. Residents are urged to submit photos of graffiti with gang tags to the CAPS office at CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org, as well as calling 311.

The Pet Fair sponsored by the 17th District was a big success. Pets were microchipped and vaccinated.

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.

Remember to always lock your vehicle; never leave it running unattended. Be on the lookout for scams related to income tax refunds. Remember, the IRS will never call you on the phone. **The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 21 at 6:30 pm** in the 17th District Community Room, 4650 N. Pulaski.

Contact or follow the 17th District CAPS office at:  
Email: CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org  
Phone: 312-742-4588  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CAPS.017  
Twitter: @ChicagoCAPS17  
Instagram: cpd17district

**Note:** The recently elected District 17 Council met on May 18. Information about the council members and the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability can be found by searching CCPSA. **The District 17 Council's next meeting is Thursday, June 15, location TBD.**

## 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.

### Fine Arts Concert Series Thanks!

Thanks to everyone who attended a concert in the Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series' 29th Season! From a holiday review and award-winning jazz to a Sondheim tribute, string quartet and college choir, it was one of the most varied and well-attended seasons in series history. Five concerts were attended by nearly 500 patrons!

Thanks to artistic director and founder **Roger Bingaman** for engaging some of Chicago's most talented professional musicians. Special shout out to West Walker neighbor **Alexandra Altman** for bringing the Kalamazoo College Singers to the series for a joyful concert in May.

The series was created by Bingaman, Director of Music at Irving Park Lutheran Church. The intent of the series is to bring high-quality, professional music to the northwest side of Chicago, free of charge. Watch for news about our 30th Season, coming soon!

### Three Brothers Garden Update

Thanks to **Judy Sviatko** for stepping forward to head the Three Brothers Garden Committee this year! Judy's expertise and passion for gardening will serve the garden well. Over several work days in April and May, we filled the raised beds with fresh compost and planted seeds and seedlings. Students from Carlson's after-school program transplanted tomatoes they grew from seeds. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped get the garden going, including West Walker neighbors **Jose Garcia, Susan Trudeau, Tom Williams** and **Sam Peterson**.

Volunteers are needed on Tuesday nights when we harvest vegetables for the Irving Park Food Pantry's clients. The garden is located at 4107 N. Pulaski, next to the Irving Park Lutheran Church parking lot. Contact Liz Mills at [lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org) or 773.398.6766 if you'd like to be notified of garden work days and events, or sign up for our newsletter at [carlsoncommunityservices.org](http://carlsoncommunityservices.org).

### Plant a Row for the Hungry with Three Brothers Garden!

Three Brothers Garden is inviting home gardeners to participate in a program called "Plant a Row for the Hungry." Bring us your surplus, or dedicate a row in your garden to growing crops for donation to the Irving Park Food Pantry. Starting in late June, leave your donation on the table inside the garden gate every Tuesday before 6 pm. Your donation will be brought to the Food Pantry Wednesday morning for immediate distribution to Food Pantry clients.

### MAP Wraps Up!

The Magic-After School Place (MAP) will wrap up the year in early June with a party that will bring together students, families and staff for pizza, ice cream sundaes and student awards.



*Magic After-School Place students plant tomatoes they grew from seeds at Three Brothers Garden.*

**Rebecca Haneberg** is in her second year leading the program, aided by **Laurie Paliga** and **Emily Moreno**. In addition to having a safe place to go after school to do homework, MAP's 30 students experimented with rockets and kinetic sand, made masks and learned about colors and shapes, created culinary treats and spent many hours building friendships and having fun! For 2023-24 enrollment information, email [mapdirector@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:mapdirector@carlsoncommunityservices.org).



*Magic-After School Place students toured Independence Branch Library and did a scavenger hunt with Children's Librarian Jessica Kimpel (far right).*

Carlson Community Services connects the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. For more information, visit [carlsoncommunityservices.org](http://carlsoncommunityservices.org) or contact Liz Mills at 773.398.6766 or [lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org).

# Irving Park Community Food Pantry News *by Craig Shutt*

## Pantry Opens Herb Garden

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry has started its herb garden for the year. The garden allows us to offer clients a range of fresh herbs each week, including sage, basil, cilantro, parsley, mint, chives, thyme and oregano. Volunteers harvest the herbs each week and offer them to clients immediately.

If you would like to donate to the herb garden's upkeep and expansion, contact program coordinator Lisa Hendricks at [lisa.29bi@comcast.net](mailto:lisa.29bi@comcast.net). To donate funds directly, use PayPal at [irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://irvingparkfoodpantry.org) or mail a check marked "Garden" to Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago IL 60618.

## Independence Park Farmers Market Booth

Pantry volunteers will be staffing a booth at the Independence Park Farmers Market during the last Sunday of each month this summer (June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24 and October 22). Stop by to say hi, ask questions, learn about volunteering or donate.

## Thank You to "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"

Many groups provided support this past month, and we thank them all:

- The Irving Park Garden Club donated herb and vegetable seedlings to help get our garden started.
- Templestowe Pub raised \$400 for the Pantry at its monthly Bingo Night.
- St. Viator Elementary School gathered more than 2,000 cans of food during their Lenten food drive.
- Six Corners StoryTellers held a storytelling event at Tatas Kitchen and Social (5700 W. Irving Park Rd.) from which 10% of sales were donated to the Pantry.
- Palmer Elementary School held a canned-food drive that collected more than 1,000 cans of food.
- Carl Schurz High School ran consecutive drives to gather socks and pet food. They dropped off flyers and then later went through the neighborhood to pick up donations.
- The Boy Scouts of St. Edward's Church held a food drive that brought in a vanload of food of all types.
- The organizations who supported our Senior Day on May 3, which was open to our clients and any neighbors in our service area. Those groups include CaptionCall, Cano Health, Hana Center and Irish Community Service.

For more information, visit [www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org) or contact John Psiharis, Executive Director, at 773-283-6296, or [info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org](mailto:info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org).



Members of the Boy Scouts troop at St. Edward's Church delivered their food drive donations to Executive Director John Psiharis (right) in April. Photo by Karen Valentine



Irving Park Garden Club president Debbie Maher with donated plants for the Pantry's garden. Photo by Gayle Christensen



Pantry Executive Director John Psiharis spins the prize wheel at Templestowe Pub's Bingo Night. Photo by Michelle Buchecker



Board member and parent Sara Yoest with St. Viator Elementary students, who sponsored a food drive. Photo courtesy Sara Yoest



Six Corners StoryTellers held a storytelling event to raise money for the Pantry. Photo by Dominick Maino



## St. Ed's School & Parish News

### Celebrate Spring with Wins, Songs & Fun!

St. Edward's students celebrated some wins this Spring. Our 6th

grade volleyball team were the champions of the NWCC playoffs, and our junior high student, Mark B., placed 8th in the 100-meter track and field state finals.

Not only do our students love sports but they also enjoy theater. A group of students performed *Annie Kids*, which is based on *Little Orphan Annie*, in conjunction with the Sullivan Chicago Studio of Performing Arts. Additionally, students from all grades showcased their artwork in the gym for the public to view, which was a proud moment for our artistic students.

St. Ed's school focuses not just on sports and the arts, but centers on rigorous academic classes along with STEM programming, service opportunities and extracurricular activities like Snapology, chess and music. Our students also begin learning Spanish in pre-school 4 classes with songs and body movements to activate their learning.

Call the office at 773-736-9133 to learn more about our outstanding academic programs and extended care. See how we can be a good fit for your family! Visit our website to schedule a tour at [www.stedwardschool.com](http://www.stedwardschool.com).

### PAR-TEE TIME Golf Outing Fundraiser

St. Edward's Parish is starting a new fundraiser to assist with upcoming projects around the church and help raise money for capital improvements. Join the PAR-TEE Time Golf outing on September 9 at Chick Evans Golf Course (6145 Golf Rd., Morton Grove, IL). Tickets are \$125 per person or \$500 per foursome. This event welcomes advanced and beginner golfers. There will be prizes for the longest drive, closest to the pin and longest putt. Purchase your tickets at <https://www.givecentral.org/location/347/event/37191>.

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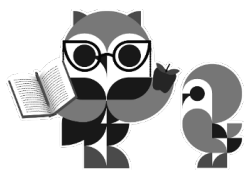
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[GatewayMontessoriSchool.org](http://GatewayMontessoriSchool.org)



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## Summer at Chicago Public Library, Independence Branch

Check out all that summer has to offer at Independence Branch Library. Fill your calendar with music, dance, crafts, games and fun for all ages! All events take place in the 1st floor Community Room unless stated otherwise.

### Calling All Cardboard Builders!

Celebrate the Chicago Public Library's 150th anniversary by creating a cardboard display representing you and your piece of the Greater Irving Park neighborhood. All community members, businesses, organizations, ages, skill levels and abilities are invited to create cardboard models of buildings or spaces in the neighborhood to be displayed at Independence Branch Library this summer. Buildings should be no more than 20 inches deep, but may be as tall or long as desired. Drop off your finished buildings to the library in June for display.

### Play Day

**Mondays at 10:30 am**

Bring a friend or meet a new one during our open and unstructured play group time. For ages up to 5.

### Family Story Time

**Wednesdays at 10:30 am**

Join us to read, talk, sing, write and stay to play! For ages up to 5.

### Nanny Nikki Music Children's Concert

**Saturday, June 10 at 1 pm**

Grammy<sup>®</sup>-Nominated artist Nanny Nikki loves to sing, and to bring life to classic children's songs as well as some original music. Join her for a fun, high-energy and interactive musical show including sing-along songs, dancing, puppets and more! For families with kids 0 to 7.

### Gettin' Crafty with Ms. Kristin

**Tuesdays, June 13 & 27, July 11 & 25 at 5:30 pm**

Explore different types of crafts with Children's Librarian Kristin. Recommended for ages 8+.

### Science Club with Jessica

**Thursdays, June 15 & 22, July 6 & 20, August 3 at 1:30 pm**

Play with science and launch rockets, make ice cream, drop egg-stronauts, and more this summer. For ages 6+.

### Aquariums as Expression and Hobby with Old Town Aquarium

**Thursday, June 15 at 6 pm**

Love fish and want to learn about the peace and joy of fish keeping? Join us as Kelly of Old Town Aquarium shares more about this peaceful hobby. Sponsored by the Women's History Month committee.

### Foam Party with Chicago Foam Company Friday, June 16 at 2 pm in the 2nd floor Independence Garden

It's a cross between a pool party and a bubble bath, without the pool or bathtub! Join us for billions of bubbles to play in and dance tunes to rock out to—the ultimate summer experience!

### Dance as Expression and Hobby with Sway Dance Chicago

**Tuesday, June 20 at 6 pm**

Love to dance and want to learn more about it and try some new dance moves? Join us as Teresa of Sway Dance Chicago shares more about this expressive hobby. Sponsored by the Women's History Month committee.

### Saturday Movie Matinee

**Join us on the following Saturdays at 2 pm!**

**June 24:** The Princess Bride, 1987, PG

**July 22:** Hook, 1991, PG

**August 5:** Adventures in Babysitting, 1987, PG-13

### Games with Stay & Play Game Café

**Monday, June 26 at 2 pm**

**Tuesday, July 18 at 5 pm**

Are you bored with your board games? Sample some new games and treats straight from one of our newest community members: Stay & Play Game Café!

### "Kids in the City" Concert with Laura Doherty Wednesday, July 12 at 2 pm

A Chicago family favorite, Laura presents her Chicago-themed "Kids in the City" concert, performing upbeat, engaging songs. Dance to Laura's Chicago hot dog song, ride the El Train, and tap your toes to Sweet Home Chicago. For families with kids ages 0+.

### Mammals & More with Flying Foxes Conservation Fund

**Friday, July 21 at 2 pm**

Meet a variety of exotic animals from around the world. Learn about their natural history as well as their conservation needs. For ages 3+.

Questions? Contact Jessica Kimpel, Children's Librarian, at 312-744-1135 or jmccarney@chipublib.org, Chicago Public Library, Independence Branch, 4024 N. Elston Ave.

See page 10 of this issue of the *Wire* for details on the library's 2023 Summer Reading Program.



# SUMMER AT CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY JUNE 10 – AUGUST 6, 2023



**Calling all kids ages 0-13  
and their families!  
Are you ready to read,  
create and have fun this  
summer?**

**READ  
SOMETHING**



**Read at least  
500 minutes.**

Read books, eBooks, comics  
or anything you want for at  
least 20 minutes a day.

**DO  
SOMETHING**






**Do at least  
five activities.**

Take part in a library event,  
create art, write a story or try  
something new.

- Sign up at your neighborhood Chicago Public Library or online at [chipublic.org/summer](http://chipublic.org/summer).
- Keep track of what you **read** and **do**.
- Share what you read and do. You can share when you visit the library, on the CPL website, or by emailing [CPLkids@chipublic.org](mailto:CPLkids@chipublic.org).
- Turn in your completed log to a Chicago Public Library location by August 2023, to earn a t-shirt! (*While supplies last.*)

Independence Branch ☐ 4024 N Elston Ave ☐ 312-744-0900	
HOURS:	
Monday & Wednesday 10 - 6 p.m. ☐	Tuesday & Thursday 12 - 8 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 9 - 5 p.m. ☐	Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Follow CPL    Ask your librarian or visit [chipublic.org/summer](http://chipublic.org/summer) for more information.



This program was made possible in part by generous donors to the Chicago Public Library Foundation



## Kidical Mass: Family Bike Rides

Join Irving Park Kidical Mass for a slow, easy-going and fun group ride focused on kids (all ages) and families that will tour the Irving Park neighborhood.

We'll meet at the Independence Park playground, near the corner of Grace and Hamlin, between 10-10:25 am for a 10:30 am departure.

**Sundays, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, November 19, December 17.** Rides will be held rain or shine from May through October, and will be weather dependent in November and December. Each ride will end at a fun destination in the community.

### Ride Guidelines

- Please wear helmets and ride safely.
- Rides are typically 2-4 miles at a 5-6 mph pace, 1 hour with stops.
- Suitable for children who have progressed beyond training wheels.
- Younger children are welcome on trail-a-bikes, child trailers or child seats on their parent/guardian's bike.
- Festive dress and decorations encouraged.
- It is expected that all kids bring a parent or guardian with a bike.

## Independence Park 2023 Summer Events

For more information about all of our events, visit [independenceparkchicago.com](http://independenceparkchicago.com) or [facebook.com/ipacchicago](https://facebook.com/ipacchicago).

### Park Clean-Up Days

6:30-7:30 pm on Wednesday, July 5, Monday, August 7, Tuesday, September 5 and Monday, October 9

### Free Movies in the Park

**Friday, June 16 at 8:30 pm:** Wayne's World, 1993 (95 minutes)

**Friday, July 21 at 8:30 pm:** A League of Their Own, 1992 (128 minutes)

**Friday, August 18 at 8 pm:** Mario Brothers, 2022 (120 minutes)

### Independence Day Parade

Tuesday, July 4 at 10 am

### Artisan Collective Market

Saturday, July 8 from 11 am-5 pm

# 2023 Farmer's Market

3945 N Springfield Ave

## Upcoming Schedule

Sundays 9 AM - 1 PM

June 11 + 25

July 9 + 23

August 12 + 27

September 10 + 24

October 8 + 22

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## Filament Theatre Announces 2023 Cohort of SPARK Artists-in-Residence

Equity, Innovation and Play were some of the themes explored by Filament Theatre's latest team of youth curators as they selected the 2023 cohort of SPARK artists.

It's the innovative SPARK program's third year, bringing together a group of 3rd- through 8th-graders who collaborated with Filament Artistic Directors Molly Bunder and Reji Simon to learn the curation process during five workshops focused on art-making, new work development and the important role that curators play in creating more equitable and diverse arts programming.

"SPARK youth curators... select new artists for our theatre-artists they know fellow young people will be excited to see. They make bold, thoughtful selections..." says Molly Bunder, Artistic Director for Creative Partnerships. "Through SPARK, we allow our young people to directly influence the future of our organization."

The three artists chosen by the curators are paid employees during their terms, with access to Filament Theatre's 4,000 square-foot flexible venue in Portage Park. With creative and administrative support from Filament's staff, artistic network and youth support teams, the artists can use their six-week residency at Filament however they choose—fully completing a project or making progress toward a longer-term goal. Each SPARK residency culminates in a final presentation.

Filament Theatre is proud to announce the 2023 cohort of youth-selected SPARK Artists-in-Residence:

**Spring 2023 SPARK Artist-in-Residence: Osiris Cuen,** aka Cuentinflas, is an Indigenous, Latine and Disabled performance artist. You may know them from their solo show, *The Rebirth of Osiris* with Haven Theatre Company, their role as "Gabby Orozco" in Arizona Theatre Company's production of *American Mariachi*, or their five years of work with Childsplay, Arizona's premier theatre for young audiences, including *Alice's Rock and Roll Adventures in Wonderland*, *The Yellow Boat*, *Smartest Girl in the World*, *Girls Who Wear Glasses*, *Super Cowgirl* and *Mighty Miracle*. They graduated from Arizona State University with a BA in Theatre.

Osiris lives in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago where they are a frequent collaborator with Pilsen Arts & Community House, hosting *Hora de Cuentinflas: A Spanish Immersive Drag Storytime*.  
Instagram: @Cuentinflas

**Summer 2023 SPARK Artist-in-Residence: Abby Thompson** is Chicago-based Emmy award-winning voiceover artist for her narration of a program promotion campaign for a PBS documentary series about Muhammad Ali. She is also an actor, educator, arts advocate and dreamer. She has a passion for community engagement, collaboration and connection amongst artists, and incorporating life skills from the arts to groups otherwise unfamiliar with theater, including incarcerated youth, youth in the foster care system, scientists and technologists. Abby is particularly interested in the intersection between the arts, sciences, faith, spirituality, social justice and diversity. Some of her favorite mediums include theater for social justice, immersive theater, animation, mixed-race theater, devised theater and youth-centered theater. She is currently the Dreamer in Chief for Northlight Theatre's youth Speak Up Summit devised teaching artist performance.

Abby has taught and facilitated theater with Filament Theatre, Chicago Children's Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Storycatchers Theatre and Collaboraction and performed with First Stage Children's Theater, Filament Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and African American Children's Theatre. Abby records voiceover for commercial work, narrations, animation, and audiobooks. She holds a BA in Acting with a minor in Voiceover from Columbia College Chicago.  
abbythompson.org

**Fall 2023 SPARK Artist-in-Residence: Phanésia Pharel** is a playwright who grew up on a dragon fruit farm in Miami. Grounded in poetry and Afrofuturism, she often writes about the divine metaphysical dilemma of colored girlhood. Her plays span revolutions, islands and explore futures built on love by centering women's pleasure, safety and joy. They are hopeful and magical survivor stories for the young, poor, women, colored and those audacious enough to be all of the above.

Phanésia is a member of the Obie award-winning EST/Youngblood group. Commissions include City Theatre Miami, the Latinx Playwrights Circle & Pregones/PRTT Greater Good Commission and Thrown Stone Theatre. Residencies include New York Stage and Film, Echo Theater Company of Los Angeles, the Playwrights Center Core Apprenticeship and the Inaugural 068 Magazine Thrown Stone Theatre Fellowship. Publishing: Concord Theatricals, Smith and Kraus Best Plays of 2020, Reset Coalition 2020 Anthology and the City Theatre Anthology. She is also the interim artistic director of viBe Theater Experience.

## Flavors of Albany Park Restaurant Crawl June 21

The North River Commission team is excited to invite you to the tastiest event of the summer! Experience the diverse international cultures and cuisines by tasting the delicious “Flavors of Albany Park” at our neighborhood restaurant crawl on **Wednesday, June 21 from 5–8 pm**. Check-in opens at 4:45 pm and each check-in location will have your first “taste”! Albany Park is “Chicago’s Gateway to the World,” reflected in the distinct variety of ethnic cuisines from 60+ participating restaurants.

We are bringing you FOUR routes to choose from and bites from all over the world to sample! Attendees receive a “passport” as their ticket and route guide to taste sample-sized portions of culinary delights from local restaurants along Lawrence WEST, Lawrence EAST, Kedzie and Montrose.

Take your time walking from restaurant to restaurant. Each restaurant on the route will offer a sample of their food, a sweet treat or a unique drink to all attendees.

Vegetarian? Generally, the Kedzie route is more veggie-friendly based on past years.

Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$13 for kids 12 and under, \$25 for students with valid ID (including university students) and \$25 for seniors (60+). Tickets are an additional \$5 on the day of the event and are limited on each route. Flavors sold out in 2021 and 2022 so get your tickets today! Flavors of Albany Park takes place outside rain or shine. No refunds.

For tickets, more information and a list of participating restaurants, visit [bit.ly/Flavors\\_2023](https://bit.ly/Flavors_2023).

BONUS Free After-Party Lot Jams concert by Chicha Roots at Surge Billiards, 3241 W. Montrose Ave., from 7–9 pm.

## NRC Seeks Donations to Support Migrant Families

North River Commission, in collaboration with elected officials, local organizations and neighbors, is collecting donations to help new migrant families. We need your support to provide medication, hygiene products, food and educational materials to newly arrived families!

To donate, please contact Erika at 872-257-8772 or [erika@northrivercommission.org](mailto:erika@northrivercommission.org) or visit <https://northrivercommission.org/help-migrant-families/>.

## Connie Engel Selling Where YOU ARE



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### Items needed include:

- Fever Reducers/Pain relievers (infants, kids, adults)
- Hydrocortisone for itchy skin
- Pepto Bismol
- Pedialyte and/or Gatorade
- Lice shampoo
- Yeast infection medication
- Prenatal vitamins
- Feminine products—just pads, not tampons
- Soap bars
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Brushes/combs
- Hair ties
- Non-perishable food items (e.g., granola bars, chips, dried fruit, nuts, powder milk)
- Water
- Books in Spanish for kids ages 2–5
- Math activity books
- Coloring books and crayons
- Pencils and sharpeners

## WWCA Members

THANK YOU to the neighbors who joined  
or renewed as of May:

**Bob & Glenda Begeske**

**Color Club**

**Charlene Greif**

**The Jeffries Family**

**George & Theresa Litman**

**Jim & Julie Lowder**

**Tara & Patrick McKee**

**Jane Nagle & Rich McDermott**

**Dorothy Panzke**

**Mari Guin Riesen**

**Diane Romo**

## Want to Advertise in the West Walker Wire?

If you're interested in placing an advertisement in the West Walker Wire, contact Shannan Bunting at shannan@solsticepr.com for ad rates and sizes. Submit final PDF or JPG ad artwork to: Editor, 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:

- 10 issues per year of the *West Walker Wire*, delivered free to residences and businesses in West Walker
- 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!

## Want to Write for the West Walker Wire?

The West Walker Wire welcomes ads and articles from you! If you like to write, we're looking for more writers to contribute monthly stories about our neighborhood history, news and events. Please limit your contributions to approximately 400 words (about half a page) and make sure you submit all text in a Word or Google document, or directly in the body of an email. Any other formats will not be accepted.

The deadline is 7 days prior to the first of the month: August 25 for the September issue. Submit articles, feedback or questions to: Wire Editor, west\_walker\_wire@yahoo.com.

### Stay Current with West Walker Blasts!

To submit an announcement or get on the list, email [wwcablasts@gmail.com](mailto:wwcablasts@gmail.com) today!

### PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

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

**Mail in your 2023/2024 dues along with the application below.**

## WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yearly Membership Dues: Effective May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024

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 Ave., Chicago, IL 60618

## Poison Ivy in the City? You Bet!

A recent walk in the neighborhood found some interesting vines creeping onto walkways mostly via fences. Could it be...POISON IVY? It sure was! Before you start to itch, let's identify this nuisance plant so you can get it out of your backyard.

### Leaves of 3- Let It Be!

Poison ivy can grow as a woody shrub but it is generally found as a vine running along the ground, growing on trees and



*Poison ivy's distinctive "leaves of three."*

shrubs and even on landscape features such as fences and rock walls and borders. This creeping vine uses aerial rootlets to attach itself to plants and structures.

Poison ivy is identified by the presence of 3 leaflets arranged alternately on a stem—never an opposite arrangement. Leaves can be shiny or dull, often with pointed tips and edges sometimes smooth but often with a few coarse notches (though not serrated). Green summer leaves turn red in the fall.

### Don't Touch! And Never Ever Burn!

All parts of the poison ivy plant contain an oily compound called urushiol. Skin inflammation, rash, itching and/or blistering can occur when urushiol comes in contact with skin or is inhaled. This oil can get on tools, pets and clothing, which can then be transferred to your skin. It can be inhaled as a gas if the plant is burned. It can even last over a year on dead plants.

### Controlling Poison Ivy in Your Landscape

The safest and most effective method of removing poison ivy is with an herbicide application of glyphosate, 2, 4-D or triclopyr. Ideally, young plants should be treated in the spring on a warm, sunny day when there's no wind or rain in the forecast. Plants can also be treated in fall when night temperatures fall. Please make sure to read and follow the directions on any herbicide you purchase, or consult your local garden center for more information.

### Wash ASAP

If you do come in contact with poison ivy, make sure to wash your hands and any other skin contact points with soapy water as soon as possible. Your clothes and towels will also need to be washed. Tools that come in contact with poison ivy should also be cleaned with soapy water.

Once poison ivy is removed from your landscape, you'll find your gardening experience much more enjoyable. Happy gardening!

## Free Native Parkway Trees Courtesy of GIPNA and an Openlands TreePlanters Grant

Help restore the tree canopy in our "city in a garden." Up to 40 Independence Park residents will receive a free tree (estimated value: \$200). Native tree species for each location will be selected by Openlands staff to suit the planting site.

Tree recipients agree to do the following:

- Volunteer at tree planting
- Water their tree weekly
- Provide year-round mulch

Apply at [openlands.jotform.com/230193614278861](https://openlands.jotform.com/230193614278861) or email your name, address and phone number to [gipnatrees@gipna.org](mailto:gipnatrees@gipna.org). The deadline for Fall 2023 planting is July 15, 2023.

For more information about Openlands, visit [openlands.org/what-we-do/trees/](https://openlands.org/what-we-do/trees/).



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## February Average Market Time

**Connie**      *Irving Park*  
**14**      **VS**      **32**

**DAYS ON MARKET**

BrokerMetrics, rolling 12 months 02/2022 - 02/2023

## February Average Percent of Original Price

**Connie**      *Irving Park*  
**101.8%**      **VS**      **96.0%**

**ORIGINAL LIST VS FINAL SELLING**

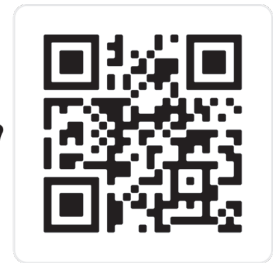
MRED, LLC, All Sold Listings, All Brokerages, 02/2023



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## DAILY SPECIALS

*\*\* All food specials are dine-in only and require purchase of a drink.*

- Monday:**      \$8 Paddy Mac Burger
- Tuesday:**    \$6.50 Tacos (2), Open Mic @ 9 pm
- Wednesday:** Ribs: \$12 Half Slab / \$17 Full Slab
- Thursday:**    90¢ Wings of Fire/Each, Trivia at 8 pm
- Friday:**      \$12.75 All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry
- Saturday:**    \$8.50 Grilled Cheese Deluxe Sandwich

## BEER AND DRINK SPECIALS EVERYDAY

4157 N. Pulaski    773-279-9300

Please contact us at PaddyMacsChicago1@gmail.com for Party/Benefit Bookings



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