

# WEST WALKER WIRE

JANUARY 2024

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

## Cash for Kids! Chicago's Johnny Cash Festival and Fundraiser

**Saturday, January 27, 5:30 pm-midnight**

The Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave.

Cash for Kids—Chicago's only Johnny Cash Festival—is a fundraiser for the Pat Mac's Pack and a celebration of the creativity, vibe and spirit of "the Man in Black" and the Carter family's contribution to American music.

Enjoy ten acts on three stages and join musicians and music lovers as they come together in the fight against pediatric brain tumors. "The Stars Align: An Authentic Sun Records Review" will feature the music of Iron Horse, Eddie Clendening, Blair Carman, Frank Canino, Hodie Snitch, The Prissillas, In Spite of Ourselves, Reverie Stone and Stephen Davern. Special appearance by The Miss Cash for Kids Pinup Contest.

Admission is \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Food and drink will be sold separately. Order tickets at <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/e/062sow?vid=11e581#>.

For more information, contact Steve Davern at 773-415-8453 or [stephenrobertdavern@gmail.com](mailto:stephenrobertdavern@gmail.com).

Pat Mac's Pack is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with a mission to raise funds for pediatric brain tumor research and provide financial assistance to young cancer patients and their families. A fully volunteer-led and operated organization, all funds raised go directly to support research and families.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Wed., Jan. 10 • 6–7:30 pm**

LSC Meeting, Haugan Elementary  
4540 N. Hamlin Ave.

**Sat., Jan. 13 • 12–4 pm**

Friends of Independence Library  
Blood Drive, 4024 N. Elston Ave.

**Tues., Jan. 16 • 5:30–7 pm**

LSC Meeting, Murphy Elementary  
School Library, 3539 W. Grace St.

**Wed., Jan. 17 • 6:30 pm**

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

**Mon., Jan. 22 • 7:30–8:30 pm**

Friends of Murphy Meeting  
Honning, 3932 N. Elston Ave.

**Sun., Feb. 4 • 2 pm**

Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series  
Alicia Berneche, soprano, solo recital  
Irving Park Lutheran Church  
4100 N. Harding Ave.  
Free

## WITHIN THE WIRE...

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

# Dear Neighbor,

Can you believe it's 2024 already! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. As we move into this new year, the Board and I have been brainstorming new ideas and events for the neighborhood, including:

- Spring Gardening in the triangle on Elston, where our West Walker sign is
- Cookie or Treat Exchange
- 4th of July table at Independence Park
- Volunteer activities
- Winter Social
- West Walker parents' group
- Garden Walk
- Fall Fest or Halloween event
- Neighborhood Clean-Up Days
- Neighbors' Night Out
- Garage Sale

We will need lots of volunteers to be able to hold events like this so we've created a survey to gauge volunteer interest. Please scan the QR code below, which will take you to a Survey Monkey website. In the survey you can also share any other ideas you have for events and activities in our neighborhood. We appreciate everyone taking the time to share their thoughts and look forward to your feedback.



Stay warm,  
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>	Gayle Irvin
<b>Treasurer</b>	Stephen Brown

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER**

Mike Webber

### **CAPS COORDINATOR**

LizMills@sbcglobal.net

### **WEST WALKER CARRIER STAFF**

Chris & Maeve Altman  
Carol Barry  
Beverly Birch  
Tori Bohannon & John Lopez  
Hunter Family  
Kotche Family  
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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**

Brian Hunter

*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.*

# CAPS Report

## Beats 1722 & 1723

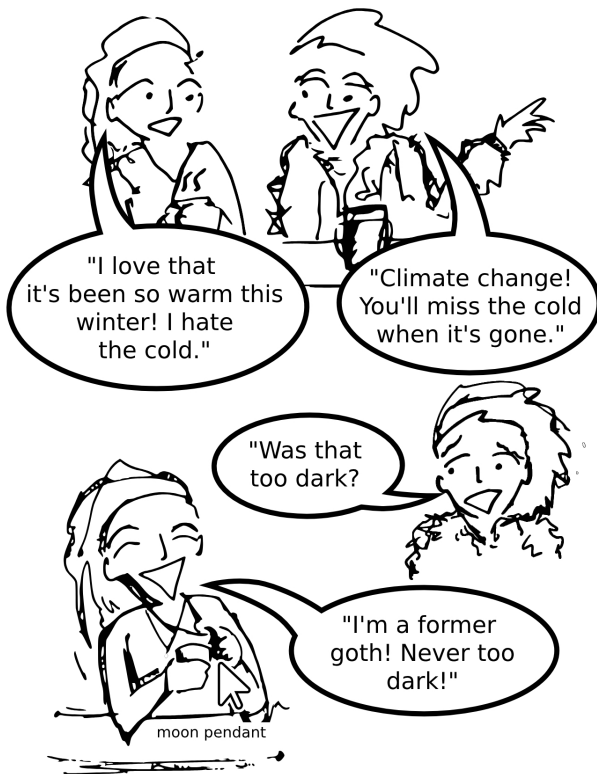
### No December Meeting

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 and 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, January 17 at 6:30 pm** in the 17th District Community Room, 4650 N. Pulaski. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month.

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

## Independence Parka

by erica dreisbach



## REAL ESTATE NEWS



By Dorie Westmeyer  
 Realtor®, MBA, ADPR

*Your Neighborhood Realtor!*

### WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2024

On December 13, the Fed announced they will be pausing their interest rate hikes and implied that they may cut interest rates 3 times in 2024.

Here are some experts' predictions for the Chicago 2024 real estate market.

- 1. Mortgage rates may decrease.** Depending on your news source (Forbes, US News, NAR, Bankrate), mortgage rates, currently around 7%, could drop to 6% or possibly even 5% in 2024. More Fed rate cuts are expected in 2025.
- 2. More buyers will start looking again.** Many home buyers were waiting to purchase in the hopes mortgage rates would come down. The same priced home will cost less & their monthly payment will become a little more affordable with lower mortgage rates.
- 3. Shortage of homes for sale.** Census data and Moody suggest Chicago is currently short around 142,000 homes for sale. However, lower mortgage rates may motivate more sellers to put their homes on the market.
- 4. Competition may increase.** With more buyers entering the market, we could see a return of multiple offers if the supply of homes doesn't increase. Some suggest home prices may slightly increase due to supply vs. demand. However, overall, Chicago home prices are projected to increase 1.1%.

Give me a call or text. I can fill you in on what's happening in our West Walker neighborhood.

**Thinking of selling in the next 24 months, and want to get the highest sale price? Please call me for a free home consultation.**

Sources: NAR, Realtor.com, Axios

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

## A Coach's Guide to Navigating "New Year, New You" Noise

by Jenna Zaffino, Integrative Nutrition Health Coach and Movement Educator

Happy New Year! As you start to negotiate through the gauntlet of "NEW YEAR, NEW YOU" initiatives, remember to pause for a reality check.

Although these shiny objects might tempt your wallet, hold on! Before you jump in, let's address the two "D's" that present the biggest hurdles to change:

- 1. Demoralization:** Feeling overwhelmed and lacking the motivation to start.
- 2. Defensiveness:** Believing you don't have a problem or need to change.

These are signs of the "precontemplation" stage, where:

- You're unaware of the change you need.
- You don't know how to make it happen.
- You're not ready to commit.
- You lack resources and motivation.

Most New Year products and services focus on the end result—a shiny new you—without addressing the process. While super enticing, this approach can leave you feeling

overwhelmed and unsupported, lending itself to another failed resolution.

This year, skip the "Big Hairy Audacious Goals" and embrace "small D energy" instead. Here's how:

- 1. Set Intentions for Delight:** Instead of focusing solely on goals, prioritize experiences that bring joy. This fosters a positive mind-set and opens you up to the benefits of change.
- 2. Decrease Your Cons:** Identify the roadblocks that are standing in the way of your goals. Address these obstacles to clear the path ahead. Conduct a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) to help with this stage.
- 3. Debate the Offers:** With a clear understanding of your desires and challenges, evaluate potential programs carefully. Ask yourself: will this truly help me reach my goals?

Many of us get roped into New Year's changes that we aren't prepared to tackle. Remember, processing is crucial. It builds discernment, empowering you to make informed choices and become a stellar consumer.

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

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4122 N Lawndale

*"Dorie, I wanted to make sure I had someone who I trusted and who would care about selling my house. As you know, the house held many memories for my whole family. The house will always be in our hearts. I didn't want just anyone to sell the house. So, thank you!" — Becky Wiebrecht*

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



Dorie Westmeyer  
Realtor,® MBA, ADPR  
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# News and Events from Carlson Community Services



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

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

## Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents Soprano Alicia Berneche



Soprano Alicia Berneche will perform a solo recital February 4 at 2 pm.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee will present noted soprano Alicia Berneche in a solo recital on **Sunday, February 4 at 2 pm** at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave.

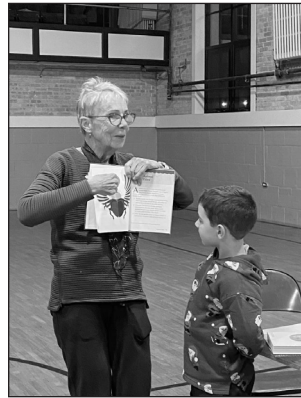
Ms. Berneche is a renowned American lyric coloratura soprano who has sung leading roles in opera houses throughout the United States and around the globe. She has appeared on the Lyric Opera of Chicago stage as Daisy Buchanan in *The Great Gatsby*, and as Helen Niles in the new edition of *Mourning Becomes Electra*. She has also appeared at The Goodman Theatre, The Barbican in London, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York in the world premiere of Philip Glass' and Mary Zimmerman's *Galileo Galilei*. In addition to performing, Alicia teaches voice at Glenbrook North High School and privately. Fine Arts audiences will remember her February 2020 performance in "Broadway's Best."

Fine Arts concerts are free, although the audience is invited to make a donation. This season is supported with a generous bequest from the late Doris Peterson, a long-time Fine Arts Series patron. The final concert in the season is Matthew Beck, performing Clarinet Trios of Brahms and Beethoven on May 5.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series, now in its 30th season, was founded in 1994 by Roger 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.

## After-School Program Openings

Carlson Community Services' after-school program, the Magic After-School Place (MAP), has a few openings for children in kindergarten through 8th grade who attend Belding school. Our fun and enriching program features



Darcie Wadycki talks about ancient art forms during her monthly hands-on art enrichment class at Magic After-School Place, Carlson's 17-year-old program.

pickup at school, a healthy snack, homework help, group games and free time. Monthly enrichments feature art instruction, science experiments, cooking class and crafts. The program is in session five days per week, following the Chicago Public Schools' calendar. Pickup at the Irving Park Lutheran Church gym at Harding and Belle Plaine is at 6 pm. With a sliding scale tuition structure based on income, MAP is a valuable partner

for working families of all income levels who need a safe place for their children to go after school. Contact Rebecca at [mapdirector@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:mapdirector@carlsoncommunityservices.org) for more information.

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).



Mariachi Monumental de México performed "A Mariachi Christmas" for Carlson's Fine Arts free holiday concert on December 10. Over 135 people enjoyed the joyful sounds of traditional mariachi music and Christmas carols.



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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

## Your Health, Your Way

Ready for a "no pressure" New Year that supports your quality of life?

I'm Jenna, your certified health coach.

My specialty is creating personalized, sustainable, health plans that meet the needs of your busy life.

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Together, we'll make it possible (and fun!)

Book a Free  
Foundational Chat:



BRAIN · BODY  
JENNA ZAFFINO  
· BEING ·

## Irving Park Community Food Pantry News

text and photos by Craig Shutt, Publicity & Special Events Coordinator, unless noted

### Pantry Seeks Toiletries

The Irving Park Food Pantry provides clients with the most in-need personal-care items: toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, body wash, razors and shaving cream. Unfortunately, they all are popular and even with the limitations we put on how many each client receives, the items are difficult to keep stocked.

To alleviate these shortages, we are asking for donations (or drives) of the basic toiletry items as well as other popular options such as body lotion, conditioner, sunscreen, lip balm, larger sizes of diapers (#5 and #6), adult diapers, washcloths and baby wipes.



Donations can be dropped off at the Big Helpers store at 4184 N. Elston Ave., Monday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, or on the front porch at 3912 N. Kenneth any time. You also can make a contact-free

donation from our Amazon registry using the QR code on this page or on our Facebook page. We appreciate your help to fill this ongoing need!



Holiday Gift Coordinator Jay Wade holds filled stockings given to Pantry clients' children 12 years old and younger.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our holiday programs, which provided the makings of a holiday meal to all clients both for Thanksgiving and the holiday season. We also gave stockings of toys and goodies to clients' children 12 years old and younger in December. Donations to help support these programs can still be made via PayPal at [www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org) or via check to Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave.

Thanks also to everyone who donated their leftover Halloween candy to the Pantry. We packaged it in festive cellophane bags and provided one to each of our larger families to give them a surprise treat for the holidays.

We appreciate everyone's time, effort and donations that help us be "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!" For more information, visit [irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://irvingparkfoodpantry.org) or contact John Psiharis, Executive Director, at 773-283-6296 or [info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org](mailto:info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org)

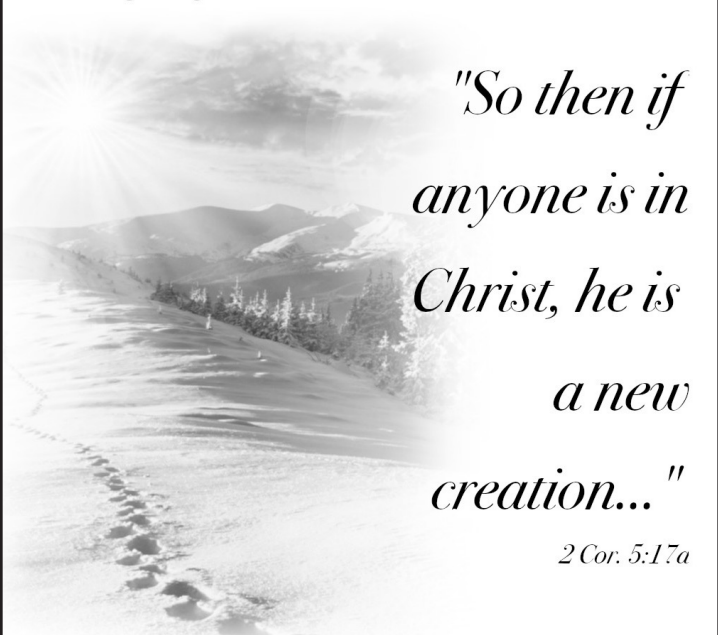
## Chicago Bibles & Books

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Monday to Saturday 10-6  
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*"So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation..."*

*2 Cor. 5:17a*

We have Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Polish, Bulgarian, Romanian materials



Pantry volunteers (l-r) Sandee Drake, Mary Ann Ballard, Judy Falso and Robin DeCoudres bagged Halloween candy donations.

## Winter at Chicago Public Library, Independence Branch

**Play Day\*** For ages up to 5.

**Mondays at 10:30 am** Bring a friend or meet a new one during our open and unstructured play group time. \*No Play Day on January 1 or 15 (library closed).

**Family Story Time** For ages up to 5.

**Wednesday, January 24 and 31 at 10:30 am** Talk, sing, read, write, and stay to play with us!

**LEGO® Play** For ages 5+.

**Thursday, January 11 at 4:30 pm** Build and inspire others with your creations. All builds will be displayed with a juice box reception to follow.

### Blood Drive at the Library

**Saturday, January 13, 12-4 pm** A convenient opportunity to donate blood to help our community!

### Community Cinema

**Saturday, January 6**

**12 pm:** *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, 2018, PG

**2 pm:** *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*, 2023, PG

**Tuesday, January 16 at 5 pm:** *Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves*, 2023, PG-13

## Chicago Mini Musicians, Register Online

**Wednesday, January 17**

**10:15 am: Ages 18 months-5 years old**

**11:15 am: Ages 0-18 months old**

Join Chicago Mini Musicians for a fun and engaging morning of songs and rhymes celebrating all things winter! With shaker eggs, jingle bells, dancing scarves, and more, their classes are designed to captivate your little one and inspire creativity that extends far beyond the classroom. Participants will receive a link to stream a wintery selection of professionally arranged and recorded songs at home. Spots are limited, so sign up today!

**Science Club (on the stairs)** For grades 2-6.

**Thursday, January 18 at 4:30 pm** Join us for a special series of programs featuring hands-on STEAM activities designed by the Museum of Science & Industry that introduce you to Agent Academy. Chicago Public Library's Out-of-School-Time Science Club programming is made possible with gratitude to a partnership with the MSI.

Questions? Contact Jessica Kimpel, Children's Librarian, at 312-744-1135 or [jmccarney@chipublib.org](mailto:jmccarney@chipublib.org).

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024  
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## New Year's Kitchen Clean Out Challenge

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JZ



Join the **FREE**

Kitchen Clean Out Challenge  
With Jenna Zaffino, Certified Health Coach

**Challenge Begins: January 14, 2024**

Scan the QR Code To Register:



# Paddy Mac's PUB & GRILL

## 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](mailto:PaddyMacsChicago1@gmail.com) for Party/Benefit Bookings



Like us on Facebook! Paddy Macs Chicago



# WWCA Members

**THANK YOU** to the neighbors who joined or renewed as of January:  
**Maureen Littlefield**

## Do You Have an Article or Ad 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.

If you're interested in placing an ad, contact Shannan Bunting at shannan@solsticepr.com for rates and sizes.

The deadline is 7 days prior to the first of the month: January 25 for the February issue. Submit articles and final PDF or JPG ad artwork, as well as feedback or questions to: Wire 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!

**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.*



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

**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:

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Mail or drop off your application and dues to: Stephen Brown, 4048 N. Harding Ave., Chicago, IL 60618



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*Real Estate Broker*

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ADVANTAGE OF BOTH IN  
THE NEW YEAR!

**FULTONGRACE**

### **Tapestry Center Seeks Community Support After Fire**

Early in the morning of Saturday, December 23, a fire started in the Tapestry Center Café, destroying most of the downstairs, and severely damaging the Tapestry Fellowship sanctuary with heavy smoke. Thankfully, no one was hurt, but the building will need a full renovation.

The City First Foundation, which owns the Tapestry Center, requests your support at this difficult time, whether through prayers for wisdom as they address all of the issues of rebuilding, or through monetary donations. To contribute toward the rebuilding efforts, mail donations to City First Foundation / Tapestry Fellowship, 3824 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago, IL 60618, or send via Zelle to [tapestryfellowship@gmail.com](mailto:tapestryfellowship@gmail.com).

The Tapestry Center serves the Irving Park neighborhood and the city of Chicago, and houses community events, Tapestry Fellowship of Independence Park, Young Nak Presbyterian, Art Chicago, and the "What's on Tap" music and art event the last Friday of each month.

For more information, contact Pastor Mark Johnson at [tapestry.chicago@gmail.com](mailto:tapestry.chicago@gmail.com) or visit <https://tapestrycommunity.org>.

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**CHE**  
*Connie Engel*

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Once this exemption is applied, the Assessor's Office auto-renews it for you each year. If a homeowner was eligible for a homestead exemption in tax years 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, and 2018, and the exemption was not applied to the paid property tax bill, a refund can be obtained through the Certificate of Error process.

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