

WESTWALKER ——WIRE——

APRIL 2024

www.westwalker.org

Get a Fresh Start with Spring Cleaning Opportunities Around the Neighborhood

45th Ward Paper Shredding Event

Gather your paper piles and join 45th Ward Alderman Jim Gardiner for a free paper shredding event on **Saturday, April 20 from 1:30–4 pm** at Hoyne Bank, 4729 N. Milwaukee Ave. Place your papers to be shred in paper bags; limit 3 bags per person. Contact Alderman Gardiner's office with questions at 773-853-0799 or ward45@cityofchicago.org.

West Walker Spring Cleanup Event



On **Sunday, April 21 from 2–4 pm,** the West Walker community and residents are invited to celebrate Earth Day weekend by sprucing up our welcome sign area (located across from Cafe Urbano) and preparing the grounds for summer. We will scrub and touch up the sign, install new lighting, and tidy up the area. This is a great opportunity to beautify our landmark and give back

to the community. To register to volunteer, scan the QR code or visit https://forms.gle/jC3iVQyCQUa6cgaAA or the WWCA Facebook page.

GIPNA Spring Alley Cleanup

Get outdoors, socialize with neighbors, and help keep the neighborhood looking great on **Saturday, April 27 from 9 am-noon.** Brooms, shovels and garbage bags available at the GIPNA table on Lawndale and Byron. Student service hours are available.

West Walker Yard and Garage Sale Returns!

Start clearing your clutter, hand-me-downs and other goodies and prepare to make deals at the West Walker Garage and Yard Sale on **Saturday, May 18** from **9 am-4 pm.** See the WWCA President's letter on page 2 and the ad on page 10 for more information on how to participate.

WITHIN THE WIRE...

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sat., Apr. 13 • 12-4 pm

Albany Park Chamber of Commerce Northwest Brewfest Meeting Tomorrow, 2901 W. Lawrence Info and tickets: *northrivercommission. org/northwest-brewfest/*

Sat., Apr. 13 • 7 pm

St. Édward School Legends & Legacy Dinner & Big Red Auction Buckley Hall, 4447 N. Lowell stedwardchicago.org/dinner-auction

Wed., Apr. 17 • 6:30 pm Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting 17th District Community Room 4650 N. Pulaski Rd.

Wed., Apr. 17 • 7 pm Independence Park Advisory Council Meeting Fieldhouse, Room 100 3945 N. Springfield Ave.

Sun., May 5 • 2 pm

Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series Matthew Beck Trio performs Clarinet Trios of Brahms and Beethoven Irving Park Lutheran Church 4100 N. Harding Ave. *Free!*

Sat., May 9 • 4–8 pm Explore Irving Park Chicago Mother's Day Hop and Shop Local See details on back cover!

Sat., May 11 • 10 am-1 pm

Free Pet Fair for Dogs & Cats Vaccines & microchips for 1st 100 pets 17th District Police Station (South Lot) 4650 N. Pulaski Rd. For more info: *CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org* or 312-742-4588

> You can also visit us online at: www.facebook.com/groups/ WestWalkerCivicAssocChicago/

Dear Neighbor,

It's hard to believe spring is here already. It actually feels colder than it did in February, but the tulips are about to bloom! Speaking of gardening, West Walker is holding a cleanup for the area where our sign sits near Elston, Berteau and Avers Avenues on **Sunday, April 21 from 2–4 pm.** For more information and to sign up, see the front page of this issue and scan the QR code, or see the West Walker Civic Association Facebook page or our email blasts for a sign-up link.

Small businesses in the area are working together to create a group called Explore Irving Park. They are hosting a shopping event on **Thursday**, **May 9 from 4–8 pm** called the Mother's Day Hop, Shop Local! For more information, see the back cover of this issue, the WWCA Facebook page or our email blasts. You can also follow Explore Irving Park on Instagram @ exploreirvingparkchicago.



We will again be hosting the West Walker Garage Sale on **Saturday, May 18 from 9 am-4 pm,** rain or shine. It is free to participate, but you must get a permit from your alderperson. Scan this QR code or see page 10 for more information on how to get a permit and sign up!

Until next month, 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

President	Erin Hunter
Co-Vice Presidents	Laura Ell &
	Helen Lira
Secretary	Gayle Irvin
Treasurer	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 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

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

Beat 1723

No March Meeting

Beats 1722 & 1723 will each have its own meeting, every other month. **The next CAPS Beat 1723 (covers all of West Walker) meeting will be Wednesday, April 17 at 6:30 pm** in the 17th District Community Room, 4650 N. Pulaski. Meetings are held the third Wednesday every other month.

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.

Contact or follow the 17th District CAPS office at CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org, 312-742-4588, facebook.com/CAPS.017 or instagram.com/cpd17district.





REAL ESTATE NEWS

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

Why It's a Good Time to Sell and Buy

Some sellers may be holding off selling because they're concerned about swapping their low mortgage rate for a higher one. Or they're concerned about finding a new home given today's low inventory of homes for sale. Here are some things to consider.

"Where we are right now is the best of both worlds. **Price increases are slowing, which is good for buyers, and prices are still relatively high, which is good for sellers.**" — Skylar Olsen, Zillow Chief Economist

- 1. There are more homes for sale this year versus last year. Nationally there are 20% more homes for sale this year than last year. Chicago has 28% more homes for sale in Feb 2024 versus Jan 2024. When you are looking to find your new home, you may have more choices.
- 2. Mortgage rates are expected to continue to decline. The Fed is expected to cut rates 3 times in 2024. If you're selling and buying, you may have a more competitive new mortgage rate.
- 3. We're still in a sellers' market. But it's shifting to a more balanced market. You've probably had a big increase in your home equity these last few years given the 30% + increase in our home values. Our neighborhood prices are continuing to hold but the rate of increase is slowing. As more of our homes come on the market, you will have more competition.

Lower mortgage rates & low number of homes for sale in West Walker, could make this a good time to sell and move closer to family, friends, your dream retirement location...

Thinking of selling in the next 24 months, and want to know what your home is worth? Please call me for a free home consultation. Sources: KCM, Zillow

Dorie Westmeyer charles rutenberg realty 847-989-4870 · Dorie@DorieWestmeyer.com



News and unity Events

> A 501(c)(3) nonprofit connecting

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

Welcome Carlson Community Services New **Executive Director: Sara Yoest**



Sara Yoest, Carlson Community Services new Executive Director

The Carlson Community Services Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Sara Yoest as Carlson's new Executive Director. Sara is a results-oriented marketing professional who spent over 15 years in the food & beverage industry in Chicago. With experience in both consumer and business-to-business channels. she has excelled in roles in product development, business development, strategic planning and communications.

Sara has roots in the Irving Park community and is a long-time champion of local causes, with sound knowledge of developing action plans for a better

community. She has held volunteer leadership positions with Carlson's partner, the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, as well as with St. Viator Elementary School and the Irving Park YMCA.

"It is a privilege to step into the role as Executive Director," says Sara. "I believe in the importance of investing in the community where you live. Carlson's vision to enrich the lives of our neighbors aligns with my own values and is one that I'm proud to be a part of."

Carlson's mission and vision will continue to thrive under Sara's expertise, leadership and commitment to the community.

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents The Matthew Beck Trio

In the final concert of its 30th season, the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee will present The Matthew Beck Trio performing Clarinet Trios of Brahms and Beethoven on Sunday, May 5 at 2 pm. The free concert will be held at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 W. Harding Ave. The trio is comprised of clarinetist Beck, cellist Allison Chambers and pianist Stephen Uhl.

For more information about the concert, please visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org/events.

It's a Sellers Market in West Walker

WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH YOUR HOME IS WORTH?

NEIGHBORS ARE GETTING TOP DOLLAR FOR THEIR HOMES WITH MY UNIQUE 5-STEP MARKETING PLAN & OUR STRATEGY.





SOLD 4107 N Springfield

SOLD 4037 N Hamlin



SOLD 4253 N Avers



SOLD



SOLD 4310 N Springfield 4122 N Lawndale

"Finding Dorie during the real estate slow-down was a stroke of luck! We were wondering if we should continue to make improvements or sell our home 'as is.' She walked through with us, pointing out things worth doing & those that would have no value to our buyers. Her creative marketing plan was tailored specifically to our neighborhood, type of home & desired selling price. Following her lead got us a busy November open house & 6 competing offers in 5 days. Dorie stayed in touch throughout the entire process & was very patient with our inexperience. Her knowledge, ethics & professionalism were impressive & relieved many of our concerns. We would highly recommend Dorie without any reservations! Thank you, Dorie, for your warmth & advice. We will miss working with you in our southern Illinois move." — AI & Becky



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

Irving Park Lutheran Church News and Events

Children's Communion Lessons Coming in May In late spring, we offer special Saturday lessons on Holy Communion for early elementary children and a special family brunch after the last class to celebrate the children and what we've learned. The classes are for children who are not yet taking Communion *and* for children who may have been taking Communion, perhaps since a very young age, but are ready for some additional instruction to better understand the sacrament. The classes are geared for children who are in 3rd–5th grade.

We are planning to hold this year's classes on **Saturday**, **May 11 from 9–10 am** and **Saturday**, **May 18 from 9–10 am**, followed by a brunch for the entire family from 10–11:30 am. Then, on **Sunday**, **May 19**, which is also the last day of Sunday School, we'll have a special emphasis on Holy Communion in the service and celebrate the children who have taken part in the class. Let Pastor Bouman know if your child can be part of this!

Service Project at Cradles to Crayons

Anyone 12 years or older is invited to volunteer with the Confirmation students at Cradles to Crayons on **Saturday**, **April 27 from 10 am-noon**. Cradles to Crayons provides local children with the basic essentials they need to thrive at home, at school and at play. Volunteers will work in stations to inspect, sort and package donations alongside other individuals and groups. The shift begins with orientation, led by a Cradles to Crayons staff member, and ends with wrap-up and an opportunity to learn the number of children impacted during the shift and to take group pictures.

To participate, you must register ahead of time by emailing Pastor Bouman at erinbouman@sbcglobal.net, who will sign you up, due to recent changes in Cradles to Crayons' volunteer registration procedures.

The Cradles to Crayons Giving Factory is located at 2500 W. Bradley Place, which has wheelchair accessibility and can provide reasonable accommodations for volunteers who may need them.







communication and genuine honesty."

- Micah C., sold a condo & purchased a home

Scan the QR Code!

Read more about the Quality of Service your neighbors have received. Reach out today to find out how I can help you.





KRIS NOWAK Real Estate Broker m 773.234.3869 kris@fultongrace.com ▣ @



Pantry News by Craig Shutt, Publicity & Special Events Coordinator

Pantry Celebrates 40th Anniversary

This month marks the 40th anniversary of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, and we appreciate all of the support we have received through the years. Special celebrations for volunteers, supporters and the entire community will be announced later and as the weather warms up.

The Pantry was opened in 1984 through the efforts of Laila Duncan, a member of the Irving Park United Methodist Church at 3801 N. Keeler, working out of a closet in the church's basement utility room. It expanded into the entire space, adding refrigerators and freezers, offices and a large delivery area.

John Psiharis, our executive director, joined in 2008 and helped the Pantry expand its service area, operating hours and food suppliers. We moved to the Emanuel United Methodist Church at 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave. in September 2019 after IPUMC was sold.

We remained open throughout the worst of the COVID pandemic in 2020, providing food to as many as 200 families a week, as other nearby pantries were unable to remain open. The Greater Chicago Food Depository named the Pantry a Pandemic Hero in September 2021 for our volunteers' relentless work to overcome every challenge thrown at us.

Our numbers returned to normal levels by 2022 only to rise again late last year as migrants and other people in need moved into our service area of the 60618 and 60641 ZIP codes. These days, we're providing food to about 130 families per week compared to about 80 per week in 2022.

We are proud of our service to everyone in need of food to help their families, as well as our programs to provide pet food, spring baskets, school supplies, coats, holiday food and children's gifts during the year. And we appreciate everyone who has supported our efforts for any of the past 40 years!

Thank you to everyone who supports our mission to be "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"

For more information, visit irvingparkfoodpantry.org or contact John Psiharis, Executive Director, at 773-283-6296 or info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org



April 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.

Family Story Time* For ages up to 5.

Wednesdays at 10:30 am Talk, sing, read, write, and stay to play with us! *No Story Time April 24 (library closed)

LEGO[®] Play For ages 5+.

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

Science Club For grades 2–6.

Thursday, April 18 at 4:30 pm Join us for a special series of programs featuring hands-on STEAM activities designed by the Museum of Science and 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 Museum of Science and Industry.

BYOB(OOK) Club For adults.

Thursday, April 18, 6 pm A book club with no assigned reading! Join us to share what you are currently reading or a favorite title you recommend. Meet fellow book lovers and get ideas of what to read next.

Money-Minded Story Time

Saturday, April 20 at 10:30 am Join us for a special story time to celebrate Financial Literacy Month. Illinois State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs will be sharing some of his favorites and resources for the community.

Silent Book Club For adults.

Tuesday, April 23, 6–7:30 pm Readers and introverts unite! Join us for an hour of solo reading of whatever you like. Hang out after to chat with your fellow readers (or not). Light refreshments provided.

Community Cinema

Sunday, April 141 pm: The Incredibles, 2004, PG3 pm: The Incredibles 2, 2018, PG

Sunday, April 28 2 pm: Dead Poets Society, 1989, PG

Questions? Contact Jessica Kimpel, Children's Librarian, at 312-744-1135 or jmccarney@chipublib.org, or visit the library at 4024 N. Elston Ave.



Here are some tips to support your child's journey into Kindergarten. By practicing the skills below, your child will be well-prepared to succeed and grow in Kindergarten at St. Edward

Real Officer

COCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILLS Separates from caregiver without anxie Cooperatively works with others Cares about the feelings of others Follows routines and directions Communicates needs effectively



INDEPENDENT SKILLS Uses restroom Buttons and zips own clothin

Ties and/or Velcro shoes
Cuts safely with scissors
Holds and uses a pencil, marker



LITERACY SKILLS

• Recognizes letters and letter sounds
• Knows and writes first name
• Listens to stories and answers questions
• Holds a book and turns pages one at a time
• Creates rhyming words



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West Walker Civic Association



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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

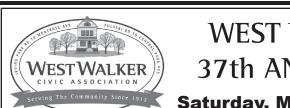


Like us on Facebook! Paddy Macs Chicago









WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION 37th ANNUAL YARD & GARAGE SALE Saturday, May 18, 2024 • 9 am-4 pm • Rain or Shine

NO FEE! PERMITS ARE FREE!

Permits are self-serve again this year, but we will still advertise on social media and place signs around the Neighborhood on sale day. To participate, you will need to:

1. OBTAIN A PERMIT FROM YOUR ALDERPERSON



- · Scan the QR code and click the first link to download and fill out a garage sale permit form.
- To find your ward and Alderperson, scan the QR code and click the second link to enter your street address.

· Call or email your Alderperson's office with any questions.

West Walker is in 3 Wards:

33rd Ward	Alderwoman Rosanna Rodriguez	773-840-7880	info@33rdward.org
39th Ward	Alderwoman Samantha Nugent	773-736-5594	ward39@cityofchicago.org
45th Ward	Alderman Jim Gardiner	773-853-0799	ward45@cityofchicago.org

2. REGISTER BY MAY 13 TO BE INCLUDED ON THE GARAGE SALE MAP

Email jankow2003@gmail.com with your name, street address and phone number to be added to the garage sale map. The final garage sale map will be emailed to you as a QR code, which will also be published on our Facebook page and website.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR WWCA MEMBERSHIP!

	Mail in your 2023/2024 dues along with the a	pplication below.
WEST WALK	ER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEN	/IBERSHIP APPLICATION
Check one:	early Membership Dues: Effective May 1, 2024 tl	hrough April 30, 2025
FAMILY ANNU	AL \$30 FAMILY LIFETIME \$350	BUSINESS \$40
INDIVIDUAL A	NNUAL \$25 🔲 INDIVIDUAL LIFETIME \$200	SENIOR \$10
ADDRESS:	you would like it to appear in the West Walker Wi E-MAIL:	
	 Payment options: ZELLE (preferred): westwalker.2010@gmail.co VENMO: @westwalkercivic PAYPAL: paypal.me/westwalkercivic Check payable to: WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSO your application and dues to: Stephen Brown, 404 	om or scan the QR code at left ICIATION



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MOTHER'S DAY HOP! MAY 9TH FROM 4 - 8PM

EXPLORE

Irving Park Chicago

Shop Local

Support small businesses in Irving Park! Pick up your passport at **Katherine Anne Confections**, then walk, bike, or hop on the trolley to visit more than 15 local businesses!

Visit New Places

Enjoy freebies like dance classes at Extensions Dance, ice cream at Color Club, & coupons for Mother's Day flowers at The Jade Vine. Don't forget to grab a sticker for your passport at every location.

Celebrate moms!

Moms, families, and neighbors come out and explore Irving Park with a fun-filled evening of giveaways at some of your favorite local spots.



MOM