



WEST WALKER WIRE

OCTOBER 2024

www.westwalkercivic.org

Fall Fun Around the Neighborhood

Artist Book House “Bare Bones” Open House Fundraiser

Sunday, October 13, 2–6 pm Come visit our new home at 4207 W. Irving Park Rd. to learn about our organization, see our plans to renovate, and enjoy some pretty cool art from members in our community. The event will feature spooky window installations, architectural renderings, donated printing, bookbinding and paper making equipment, and examples of work produced in past and upcoming pop-up workshops.

While we're not yet officially open, this fundraiser will provide a preview of workshops to be held in the space until construction begins. Visit www.artistsbookhouse.org to learn more and sign up for our newsletter.

2nd Annual Pumpkin Palooza: A Neighborhood Giveaway

Saturday, October 19, 2–4 pm Join Jarret Jarvis of Compass Real Estate and Alex Filin of Vybe Mortgage at the Jarvis home (4304 N Hamlin Ave.) for an afternoon of fall fun, including pumpkins (limit 1 per household), a bounce house, and a chance to meet and mingle with neighbors.

Explore Irving Park Chicago Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 27, 12–3 pm Stop by and visit with local businesses, enjoy some trick-or-treating, fun games and lots of community spirit at our first annual EIPC Trunk or Treat! Don't forget to wear your costumes! Location: Parking lot at Midtown Funeral Home, 3918 W. Irving Park Rd.

Lot'sa Offers October Workshops

Dates and times vary. Visit our local community art space and shop at 4150 N. Elston Ave. to get creative year-round. Fall workshop offerings include gouache landscape painting, spooky cyanotype postcards and collage riso printing, or grab your sketchbook and join for a group draw session. Tickets required for most workshops. Visit www.ilovelotsa.com for more information and to register.

WITHIN THE WIRE...

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sat., Oct. 12 • 9 am–1 pm

Horner Park Farmers' Market
2741 W. Montrose Ave. at California Ave.

Sun., Oct. 13 & Nov. 10 • 10 am

Kidical Mass Family Bike Ride
Independence Park Playground
(corner of Grace & Hamlin)

Sun., Oct. 13 & 27 • 9 am–1 pm

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

Wed., Oct. 16 • 7 pm

Independence Park Advisory Council
Meeting, Fieldhouse, Room 100
3945 N. Springfield Ave.

Thurs., Oct. 24 • 7 pm

Lyn Rye Jazz Trio performs at Apricot
Vintage, 4108 N. Pulaski Rd. *FREE!*

Sun., Nov. 3 • 2 pm

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee presents
organist Annika Sundberg in concert
Irving Park Lutheran Church
4100 N. Harding Ave. *FREE!*

Sat., Nov. 9 • 5–8 pm

GIPNA Annual Wine & Cheese Party
Color Club, 4146 N. Elston Ave.
Tickets available at gipna.org

Sat., Nov. 16 • 7 pm

Carlson Community Services Trivia Night
Irving Park Lutheran Church Rec Center
4057 N. Harding Ave.
See page 5 for more info.

You can also follow us at:
[www.facebook.com/groups/
WestWalkerCivicAssocChicago/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WestWalkerCivicAssocChicago/)



Dear Neighbor,

I hope this letter finds you all well and getting into the Halloween spirit! I'm always excited to see all the decorations that go up around West Walker for the holiday, far more than I usually see in other neighborhoods. While there are many family-friendly Halloween events around the city, I would encourage you to support our local businesses, which have established a group called Explore Irving Park Chicago. They are holding a trunk-or-treat event on **Sunday, October 27, from 12-3 pm** in Midtown Funeral Home's parking lot, 3918 W. Irving Park Rd. (See front cover for more info.)

We had hoped to host our own Fall Fest that day but, due to lack of volunteers and this competing event, we've decided to cancel Fall Fest for this year. We hope to bring it back next year with more volunteer support. While the Board enjoys working within the community to create and host events, we as a small group cannot do all the work ourselves and are always looking for volunteers to help. If you want to volunteer for future West Walker events, please reach out to me (jankow2003@gmail.com).

I'm starting to see more and more yard signs up around the neighborhood! If you paid your 2024 membership dues and did NOT receive a yard sign, or paid for a senior membership and would like to buy a yard sign for \$5, please reach out to Laura Ell: lauraell1120@gmail.com.

Have a spooky October,

Erin Hunter
WWCA President

P.S. We are still looking for a new editor for the West Walker Wire newsletter. If you enjoy editing and proofreading, have basic desktop publishing experience with Adobe InDesign, and are interested in volunteering to put together 10 issues per year (September through June) or would like more information, please contact me at jankow2003@gmail.com. Monthly time commitment is roughly 16-24 hours.

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

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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 7 days prior to the 1st of each month. Submit ideas and articles to the editor at 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.

Mail in your 2024/2025 dues along with the application below.

WWCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yearly Membership Dues: Effective May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025

FAMILY: ANNUAL \$30 LIFETIME \$350 BUSINESS \$40

INDIVIDUAL: ANNUAL \$25 LIFETIME \$200 SENIOR \$10

NAME: _____
(Print your name as you would like it to appear in the West Walker Wire.)

PHONE & E-MAIL: _____



Payment options:

- ZELLE: westwalker.2010@gmail.com or QR code
- VENMO: @westwalkercivic
- PAYPAL: paypal.me/westwalkercivic
- Check to: WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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



Irving Park Lutheran Church News and Events

Flu Shots and Other Vaccines Offered at IPLC

On **Sunday, October 13 from 9 am–noon**, a Walgreens pharmacist will be offering various shots (flu, RSV, COVID, pneumonia). NOTE: The flu shots are free, but other shots require insurance; HMO is not accepted. Please bring insurance cards.

Wear Red on Reformation Sunday, October 27

According to tradition, on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the Wittenburg church door, an event often considered a key starting point for theological reforms of the 16th century that gave birth to Lutheranism. With Luther and Lutheran Christians of every age, we celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do life-transforming work. We pray that the church be continually reformed, that it live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. In worship on Reformation Sunday, most of our liturgical music and hymns will be ones written by Martin Luther, including "A Mighty Fortress." You can add to the festive look and feel and celebration of the day by wearing red, the color of the Holy Spirit—the source of inspiration, transformation, and reformation.

All Saints Sunday: Naming Loved Ones, Bell Banners

On All Saints **Sunday, November 3**, we'll remember people who have died, naming them aloud in worship, ringing bells, and processing with our special All Saints Day Bell Banners. Please email the office names to speak aloud prior to All Saints Sunday at office@iplc.org. You may also write the name of someone who has died and attach it to a bell. You can bring in your own small bell, or use bells provided in the narthex.

Adult Faith Formation in October

Sunday mornings in person & Wednesday evenings via Zoom This year's theme "Journey to Faith" continues with a Sunday morning Bible study of a key journeying ancestor in faith: Abraham. Join us in the Chapel from 9:15–10:15 am as we learn more about him (and Sarah, and Hagar, and Ishmael, and Isaac). Also this October we're venturing into new territory with a Wednesday evening Bible study via Zoom (6–6:45 pm). Contact the IPLC church office for the Zoom link. All are welcome at either and/or all gatherings, no matter your level of Bible knowledge. We warmly welcome questions, curiosity, and connections to one's own faith journey.



REAL ESTATE NEWS

By Dorie Westmeyer
Realtor®, MBA, ADPR

Your Neighborhood Realtor!

Are Mortgage Rates Dropping?

If you follow what's happening in the market, you've probably read that the Fed dropped the Fed Funds rate ½% on September 18 for the first time since 2020. The Fed increased this number over the last few years to help control rising inflation due to the pandemic. Inflation is down substantially so the Fed has started cutting rates. The ½% rate cut is great news for buyers and sellers.

Although interest rates and mortgage rates don't necessarily correlate directly, a drop in the Fed interest rate usually impacts mortgage rates. In fact, we have seen mortgage rates drop a full 1% since May in anticipation of this rate cut. Mortgage rates were as high as 7.79% in October 2023. Today the current rate on a 30-year mortgage is around 6%. If you were buying a \$400,000 home with a 20% downpayment, you'd save \$400 monthly.

The Fed has also signaled they are going to cut rates two more times before the end of the year. A recent survey by Realtor.com says 40% of potential buyers would be interested in buying a home if rates drop below 6%. While we may never see mortgage rates at 3% like we saw during the pandemic, rates could move into the 5% range in 2025. The same survey says buyers will be very comfortable with rates around 5%.

If you've been waiting to put your home on the market thinking no one is buying, that is changing. The recent decline in mortgage rates has already brought more buyers into the market. Mortgage applications are up. In September alone, two of my clients have had multiple offers on their homes.

Source: Realtor.com

**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.**

Dorie Westmeyer

CHARLES RUTENBERG REALTY

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October 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!

Drama Llamas with Mudlark Theater For ages 6+.

Thursday, October 10 at 4:30 pm Join us for theater games and read books aloud in the most dramatic way you can. Snack provided.

Kaleidoscopic Poetry & Prose with Open Mic

Thursday, October 10 at 6 pm Readings by Daniel Brozutzky and Soleida Rios. Open Mic: Five poets will be selected by emcee, Carlos Cumpian. For adults. Registration required.

LEGO® Play For ages 5+.

Thursday, October 17 at 4:30 pm Build and inspire others with your creations. All builds will be displayed with a juice box reception to follow.

Swap & Create Costumes For tweens and teens.

Tuesday, October 15 at 4:30 pm Bring old costumes to

trade and bring your ideas to reimagine and upcycle old costumes into something new.

Science Club: Return of the Puking Pumpkin

Thursday, October 24 at 4:30 pm What does it take to make a pumpkin puke? We will carve jack-o-lanterns and make them barf a rainbow. For ages 3+.

Community Cinema

Saturday, October 26:

11 am: PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie, 2023, PG

2 pm: The Crow, 1994, R

Sunday, October 27 at 2 pm A Quiet Place: Day One, 2024, PG-13

Decorate Trick-or-Treat Bags For tweens and teens.

Tuesday, October 29 at 4:30 pm We will provide canvas bags and supplies for you to design and create the treat bag of your Halloween dreams.

Diwali Celebration for All Families

Wednesday, October 30 at 10:30 am Join bestselling author, Ajanta, for an engaging workshop that combines the vibrant energy of Indian dances with enchanting Indian cultural stories.

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

Is Now a Good Time to Sell Your Home?



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“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 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.” – Al & Becky



Dorie Westmeyer
Realtor,® MBA, ADPR
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**Carlson
Community
Services**

News and Events

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 Begins 31st Concert Season

We'll welcome renowned organist, and native Chicagoan, Annika Sunberg on **Sunday, November 3 at 2 pm**, for a free concert at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. Annika will perform works from J.S. Bach and Dan Locklair and will feature selections from African American composers Thomas H. Kerr and Jerry Mumford on the beautiful Casavant organ. More than 2,500 pipes are in the three expression chambers of the organ loft, which has been an integral part of the music program at Irving Park Lutheran Church since its dedication in 1953.

Mark your calendar for our holiday concert on **Sunday, December 8 at 2 pm**, featuring internationally recognized blues and folk artist Bear Williams and his band. Plan to join us in the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym at 4057 N. Harding Ave. for a festive afternoon of music, followed by a reception, also held in the gym.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Concert series 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, and to provide professional Chicagoland artists with a venue for performance and artistic growth. If you are interested in learning more about the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Concert Series, or would like to be a part of the committee, please reach out to Carlson's Executive Director, Sara Yoest, at sarayoest@carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Three Brothers Garden News

We are winding down the growing season at the Three Brothers Garden. It has been a bountiful year! Thanks to Judy Sviatko for leading the garden committee again this year. And thank you to our regular garden volunteers, Melanie Reschke, Joyce Patch, Rebecca Haneberg, Ruth Meberg and Sara Anderson, who have consistently helped with Tuesday harvests this season to ensure we always have a delivery to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry on Wednesday mornings. We have delivered over 500 pounds of vegetables and herbs to the Pantry, with more to come through the month of October.

Carlson's Annual Trivia Night Returns

Mark your calendar and gather your team! Carlson Community Services' Trivia Night will be held on

Saturday, November 16, at the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym at 4057 N. Harding Ave. As Carlson's largest fundraiser of the year, Trivia Night has become a beloved community event supporting Carlson's after-school program, community garden and free concert series.

Teams of 8 can purchase a table for \$300 (\$325 after November 7). Wine, beer and soda will be sold at the bar. Bring your own snacks! Teams will compete for a \$250 cash prize and bragging rights.

Visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org for the ticket link to purchase a table and watch our Facebook page for information on the evening's raffle prizes, activities, sponsors and more.



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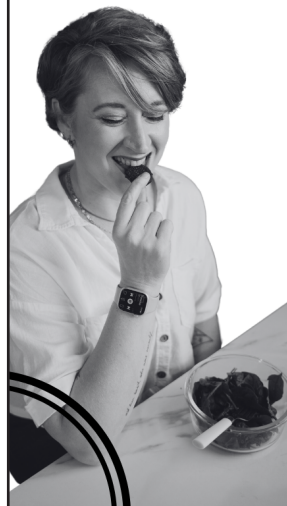
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Irving Park Community Food Pantry News

by Craig Shutt, Publicity & Special Events Coordinator

Pantry Hat, Scarf & Glove Drive Underway

The Pantry is collecting new hats, scarves and gloves for our registered clients in the 60641 and 60618 ZIP codes. This program replaces our annual coat drive, which we are unable to run this year.

We will give out the items on **Wednesday, November 20 from 9 am to noon** during our annual Thanksgiving meal distribution.



To make a contract-free online donation through our Amazon registry, scan this QR code. To make a monetary donation to help us purchase more items, use the PayPal link at www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org or mail a check marked "winterwear"

to Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago IL 60618.

Drop off locally purchased hats, scarves, mittens and gloves for men, women and children at any of our drop-off locations listed below until **Sunday, November 17**.

NOTE: Please limit your donation to **ONLY** hats, scarves and gloves. We have no space to offer other items.

Donations can be taken to:

- Alderwoman Ruth Cruz's office, 5714-A W. Belmont Ave. (call 773-628-7874 for times)
- Big Helpers store, 4184 N. Elston Ave. (Monday-Friday, 10 am-4 pm)
- Compass Real Estate (Three offices: 2044 W. Roscoe St., 1653 N. Milwaukee Ave. and 2350 N. Lincoln Ave., 3rd floor)
- Irving Park YMCA, 4251 W. Irving Park Rd. (dropbox in lobby)
- Jet's Pizza, 3951 N. Kimball Ave. (dropbox in waiting area)
- Old Irving Brewing Company, 4419 W. Montrose Ave. (noon-10 pm)
- The front porches of 4242 N. Hamlin Ave., 4043 and 4115 N. Harding Ave., 4731 Kiona Ave., or 3822 N. Tripp Ave. (anytime)

Other drop-off points will be announced on our social media pages. If you have a large donation or want to run a drive, please email info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org for suggestions or to arrange delivery. Thank you for your support!

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

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