

WESTWALKER —WIRE——

NOVEMBER 2024

www.westwalkercivic.org

A Leafy Bed of Dreams

by a West Walker gardening fan

In November's chill, the garden sighs, As leaves descend from autumn skies. With gentle hands, the gardener spreads, A cozy blanket on flower beds.

Fallen leaves of gold and brown, Nestle close to earth's soft crown. Whispers of warmth in a frosty night, Protecting roots 'til spring's first light.

A tapestry of nature's weave, Holds moisture in and helps relieve The tender blooms from winter's clutch, Nurtured softly, they'll grow as such.

Layered deep, the mulch does shield, Against the harshness the cold will yield. A fortress built of organic grace, In this quiet, sacred space.

So here we pause, with love and care, For every petal, a promise shared. As seasons turn, our hopes take flight, In mulched embrace, the blooms ignite.

Fallen leaves form a natural mulch that enriches soil, helps suppress weeds and provides important winter homes for pollinators and other wildlife. Gardeners-remember to use your leaves as mulch around your trees and garden beds this fall!

WITHIN THE WIRE...

- 2 Dear Neighbor
- 3 Shop Local: Holiday Trolley, Gift Shop Opens Independence Parka
- 4 Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood? by Jenna Zaffino
- 5 Carlson Community Services
- 7 Irving Park Community Food Pantry
- 8 Irving Park Lutheran Church
- 9 Independence Branch Library Neighborhood School News
- 11 Filament Theatre Invictus Theater GIPNA Cookie Exchange

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sat., Nov. 16 • 6:30 pm

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

Mon., Nov. 18 • 7 pm Avondale Neighbors Association Community Meeting, Rockwell on the River, 3057 N. Rockwell St. www.avondaleneighbors.org

Wed., Nov. 20 • 7 pm Independence Park Advisory Council Meeting, Fieldhouse, Room 100 3945 N. Springfield Ave.

Thurs., Nov. 28 • Thanksgiving Day WWCA wishes all our neighbors a Happy Thanksgiving!

Sat., Nov. 30 • Small Biz Saturday Shop local for holiday gifts today and every day!

Mon., Dec. 2 • 6:30–8:30 pm GIPNA Holiday Cookie Exchange The Cabin at Old Irving 4104 N. Pulaski Rd. See page 11 for more info

Tues., Dec. 3 • 1–6 pm American Red Cross Blood Drive Independence Branch Library 4024 N. Elston Ave. See page 9 for more info

Sat., Dec. 7 • 3–6 pm Northwest Side Holiday Trolley See page 3 for more info

Sun., Dec. 8 • 10 am Kidical Mass Family Bike Ride Independence Park Playground (corner of Grace & Hamlin)

Sun., Dec. 8 • 2 pm Irving Park Fine Arts Committee presents Bear Williams and his band Irving Park Lutheran Church 4100 N. Harding Ave. FREE! See page 5 for more info

Dear Neighbor,

I hope fall has been treating you well! There is certainly a lot going on in the neighborhood and I hope you've been able to get out and enjoy some of the activities.

We recently received some questions about why new neighbors should get involved with West Walker or what the association can offer them. I'd like to take some time to explain that in this letter.

West Walker Civic Association exists for the benefit of the neighbors living within its boundaries (Montrose/Irving Park/Central Park/Pulaski). The association has been around for over 50 years, but the Executive Board has completely turned over in the last year or so and we are looking to get more neighbors involved.

The main thing you get from WWCA is this newsletter published 10 times a year (September to June). It's free and delivered to every household within the boundaries. Various people write articles for the newsletter, and the community calendar lists monthly events in the neighborhood. Some of the events are hosted by WWCA and some are by other nearby organizations.

Speaking of events hosted by WWCA, our largest and longest standing annual events are the Garage Sale held in May and the Fourth of July table at Independence Park. In addition to these events, we have hosted Neighbors' Night Out at various local watering holes and this year we had our first Garden Walk. Most of these events are free to attend and it's a great way to meet your neighbors.

Outside of events, WWCA has relationships with all three alderpeople that cover our territory. They will consult us in regards to licenses that area businesses need approved or zoning changes. We are also contacted in relation to crime in the area and we update the West Walker community through our Facebook page. We send out regular email blasts keeping neighbors updated on happenings between issues of the Wire newsletter.

WWCA encourages our new and old neighbors to join the association! The annual fees (or lifetime if you wish) cover the cost of printing the Wire, the cost of putting on our events, and annual fees associated with running our website and being recognized by the Secretary of State. While WWCA is not a registered 501c3 (it's actually a lot of work!), we do not make any profit.

Lastly, all of these things cannot happen without volunteers. We are always looking for new volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer, feel free to reach out to me at jankow2003@gmail.com.

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

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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.

All Aboard—The Northwest Side Holiday Trolley Is Back!

Join us for the annual Northwest Side Holiday Trolley on **Saturday, December 7 from 3–6 pm,** making stops in the Six Corners, Jefferson Park & Portage Park business districts! Trolleys will run down Irving Park Road, and Lawrence and Milwaukee Avenues to showcase our participating small businesses.

This is a wonderful chance to take in the sights and sounds of the season, with plenty of opportunities to visit retail stores and restaurants around the community. Stay tuned for the official map and our list of participating businesses!

For more information, visit https://sixcorners.com/ calendar/2024/12/7/2024-northwest-side-holidaytrolley-all-aboard.

Hey, I Thought of You Gift Shop Is Now Open!

Hey, I Thought of You (2839 W. Montrose Ave.) is a gift shop run by Carolyn (she/her) that features Chicagoarea and regional artists, with a focus on small arts businesses, LGBTQ, and diverse creators.

Continued on page 6





REAL ESTATE NEWS

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

Thinking of Selling in 2025?

Some sellers have been waiting to sell until mortgage rates drop, which they are. According to Zillow, here's the breakdown of improvements sellers are making to prepare their homes for sale:



Here are a few other suggestions on how to make your home stand out:

- Install new light fixtures for an updated look.
- Refresh your kitchen and bath with new hardware. Paint cabinets if needed.
- Wash all windows so the light comes through.
- Remove some furniture so rooms look larger.
- Clean out/organize your closets.
- Improve curb appeal—add landscape solar lighting, planters, appealing door mat...
- Make sure everything is clean and scrubby.
- Get rid of junk in the basement, attic, garage...
- Check that all light bulbs work.

Thinking of selling in the next 24 months, and want to know what improvements, you should make? Call me for a free home consultation.

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

November 2024

Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?

by Jenna Zaffino, Integrative Nutrition Health Coach and Movement Educator

Remember that catchy tune from Sesame Street, "Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?" It turns out, those familiar faces we encounter on our daily walks might be more important to our well-being than we realize.

I've been reflecting on the people I "know" from my walks-not by name, but by their routines. There's the gentleman who diligently feeds the souirrels each morning, the fitness enthusiast doing push-ups to booming Latin music, the older couple on their daily ginkgo fruit hunt, and the woman who runs with an intensity that makes me wonder if she's relieving stress or creating more of it.

These might seem like fleeting encounters, mere blips in our busy days. But research suggests that these "microinteractions" can significantly impact our happiness and well-being.

The Harvard Study of Adult Development, one of the longest-running studies on happiness, has found that the single most important factor in a long, healthy, and

fulfilling life is the quality of our relationships. While close friendships and family bonds are essential, even brief exchanges with people in our neighborhood contribute to a sense of belonging and connection.

Studies on "micro-interactions" show that these seemingly insignificant exchanges can boost happiness and well-being. They can reduce stress, increase feelings of belonging, and even improve our physical health.

Stress can isolate us, making us feel alone in our struggles. But those small moments of connection-a smile, a nod, a shared laugh-can remind us that we're part of a larger community.

So, get outside and take a walk! No one is immune to stress, and engaging in nourishing, movementbased experiences like walking, especially in a way that connects us with others, is a great way to care for ourselves.

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"Dorie sold our home in Lakeview. We had a successful showing with 40 groups and multiple offers. She guided us through the post offer process well and we were very happy with the result. Great work!" —Chris Reynolds



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

Dorie Westmeyer Realtor,® MBA, ADPR *Your Neighborhood Realtor*

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News and Nunity Events

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit connecting

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

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Concert Series 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 concert is free; donations to support future programming are welcome.

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.

For more info, visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org/ programs/fine-arts/this-season/.

Purchase Your Table For Carlson's Trivia Night

Have you assembled & registered your team? We hope you are planning to attend Carlson Community Services' annual Trivia Night on **Saturday, November 16,** held in the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym at 4057 N. Harding Ave. Doors will open at 6:30 pm with trivia beginning promptly at 7 pm.

As Carlson's largest fundraiser of the year, Trivia Night has become a beloved community event supporting Carlson's Magic Afterschool Place, the Three Brothers Garden and free concert series. Teams of 8 can purchase a table for \$300 (\$325 after November 8) and will compete for a \$250 cash prize and bragging rights!

For more information and to register your team, visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org/events/. This event is open to adults 21 and over. Wine, beer and soda will be sold at the bar.

It's a great night out!

Three Brothers Garden Produced Over 500 lbs. in 2024

The Three Brothers Garden produced just over 500 pounds of fresh vegetables and herbs for the Irving Park Community Food Pantry this season! Especially notable this year were our several varieties of tomato plants which produced over 300 pounds of tomatoes. We enjoyed a bountiful year thanks to our dedicated volunteers who cared for the garden all season and ensured that we delivered fresh vegetables to the Pantry every Wednesday morning between June and October.

If you are interested in learning more about the Three Brothers Garden, please sign up to receive our email newsletter at www.carlsoncommunityservices.org.

See you in the Spring!

Carlson Community Services connects the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. For more information visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org and scroll to the bottom of the home page where you can opt-in to receive our email newsletter or direct inquiries to Sara Yoest, Executive Director, at 312-810-3230 or sarayoest@carlsoncommunityservices.org.



Continued from page 3

Carolyn, who moved to Chicago in 2009 after studying photography and neon bending, has taught art across the city as a former Chicago Public Library Maker In Residence. Now, she offers small group art classes and community crafting nights, creating a space for artists to share their work and teach creative skills to the community.

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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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FULTON**GRACE**

West Walker Civic Association

Irving Park Community Food

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

Pantry Collecting Hats, Scarves & Gloves Until November 17

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 dropoff 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)
- State Representative Lindsey LaPointe's office, 4349 N. Milwaukee Ave. (Monday–Friday, 9 am–5 pm)
- The front porches of 4242 N. Hamlin Ave., 4043 and 4115 N. Harding Ave., 4731 Kiona Ave., or 3822 N. Tripp Ave. (anytime)

If you have a large donation or want to run a drive, 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 info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org or visit www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org.



Info booth hosts Julia Murtychian, outreach director for State Rep. Lindsey LaPointe, and Magda Herron and Madeleine Tutwiler, from Congresswoman Delia Ramirez's office, with Executive Director John Psiharis.



Assistant Operations Manager Laura Barnes receives 200+ smoke detectors from Raymond Hasbrook, Chicago Fire Department Foundation.



Left: Members of Alderwoman Rossana Rodriguez's Sage Brigade, volunteers who help seniors apply for programs, pick up Pantry food to take on their visits. Right: Brianna from the Irving Park YMCA holds a collection bin for the Pantry's drive for winter hats, scarves and gloves. Photo courtesy Irving Park YMCA



John Psiharis congratulates the Pantry's Volunteers of the Year: Don Mac Gregor and Greg Shea. Photo by Marcy Sherrill

Irving Park Lutheran Church News and Events

Adult Faith Formation in November

This year's theme "Journey to Faith" continues with a Sunday morning Bible study of journeys in Genesis, with specific focus on Abraham and Joseph. Join us **Sundays from 9:15–10:15 am** in the Chapel. A special standalone session on **Sunday, November 17**, will be led by our Ministry in Context Seminary student Hannah Peterson, as they discuss personal identity and their journey to ministry.

We'll also continue our venture into new territory with a Bible study via Zoom on **Wednesdays from 6–6:45 pm,** led by Pastor Bouman and focusing on the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday. Contact the office for the Zoom link at office@iplc.org or 773-267-1666. All are welcome at any and all gatherings. We warmly welcome questions and connections to one's own faith journey.

Reconciling in Christ-Preparing a Bountiful Table

Join seminary student Hannah Peterson in the Adult Forum on **Sunday, November 17 at 9:15 am** for discussion centering on queerness in the Church. Through story-sharing and textual study, we'll explore the ways in which we as a community already experience God's boundless love, and dream of new ways we can continue to live into our call. A question we'll consider: How can we open ourselves up to the radical movement of the Holy Spirit more fully as an LGBTQIA+ welcoming church, and what does that mean for me?

Confirmation Students Helping the Hungry

7th & 8th grade Confirmation Students will volunteer at the Irving Park Food Pantry at their monthly evening distribution on **Tuesday, November 12.** We'll meet at church at 5 pm and then head over to the Pantry to help distribute food and household items. On **Sunday, November 17 from 5–8 pm,** the students will cook a meal for The Crib, the Night Ministry Shelter serving young people. We'll make enough food to have a meal together (quality testing!) and we'll also spend time building community and praying together. If time allows we'll play Hide & Seek in the darkened church, too!

Hanging of the Greens

The Worship Team invites everyone to join us **Saturday**, **November 30 at 10 am** for the "Hanging of the Greens" and decorating the church for Advent and Christmas. This is a great activity for families–bring children and grandchildren! Coffee, juice and Pastor's homemade cinnamon rolls will be served.



West Walker Civic Association

November 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!

Community Cinema

Saturday, November 9:

11 am: Tiger's Apprentice, 2024, PG
1 pm: Deadpool & Wolverine, 2024, R
Sunday, November 10 at 2 pm Rumble: The Indians
Who Rocked the World, 2017, Documentary

Make Your Mark: Printmaking For ages 6+. **Thursday, November 14 at 4:30 pm** Everyone has a story to tell! Learn to tell yours through art. Learn the basics of printmaking and how to make a reusable printing block using recycled materials.

Thrive in the Messy For parents. **Thursday, November 14 at 5:30 pm** Join Amy Johnston, Clinical Director of Urban Wellness Counseling, for this parenting workshop.

Parenting in the midst of all the stresses and struggles of today is, well, complicated. This workshop will provide insights into how our brains and bodies respond to chronic stress and simple strategies to incorporate into busy lives. We'll explore how we, as parents and caregivers, can acknowledge our struggle and expand our capacity to not just survive but thrive in the messy.

LEGO[®] Play For ages 5+.

Thursday, November 21 at 4:30 pm Build and inspire others with your creations. All builds will be displayed with a juice box reception to follow.

Silent Book Club For adults.

Thursday, November 21 at 6 pm Readers and introverts unite! Join us for 45 minutes of independent reading of whatever you like. Hang out after to chat about what you're reading (or not, whichever you prefer). Light refreshments will be provided.

Science Spook-tacular with

The Science Heroes For ages 6+.

Monday, November 25 at 3 pm Halloween may be long gone but we can keep spooky season going. Science and stories collide in this fun, interactive program featuring the "coolest" thing in science–dry ice! Together we'll explore the "spooky" effects of frozen carbon dioxide. Volunteers help conduct each experiment as the whole audience gets involved in changing variables and making predictions!

Blood Drive with the American Red Cross

Tuesday, December 3, 1–6 pm Help others in our community and beyond with your donation. American Red Cross staff will be drawing the blood.

Bring a photo ID or your blood donor card, or two other forms of ID. Eat a healthy meal and drink an extra 16 oz. of water and fluids before the donation.

Register at www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive or call 800-733-2767.

Drama Llamas with Mudlark Theater For ages 6+. **Thursday, December 5 at 4:30 pm** Join us for theater games and to read books aloud in the most dramatic way you can with Mudlark Theater. Snack provided.

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



St. Viator Elementary Wiggles & Giggles Playgroup

All parents and

caregivers are invited to attend this fun play time with their children (newborn through 4 years of age) **every other Thursday from 9–10:30 am (dates listed below).** This is a complimentary program offered by St. Viator. Children can play in the open gym with balls, hula hoops, tunnels and more!

2024–2025 Dates November 7 & 21 December 5 January 9 & 23 February 6 & 20 March 6 & 20 April 3 May 1 & 15 & End of Year Party!

The playgroup meets in the St. Viator Rec Center/Gym at 3644 N. Kedvale (corner of Kedvale & Waveland). For more information, contact the school office at 773-545-2173 or office1@stviatorchicago.org or visit www.stviatorchicago.org.

November 2024

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WWCA Members

THANK YOU to the neighbors who joined or renewed as of November: Alexandra & Chris Altman The Gomes Family Rebecca Herman & Mark Nichols Caitlin (Poirier) Kolb Nicholas & Alison McHugh Regan Murphy Beth & Lachlan Tidmarsh Thom Van der Doef & Kathy Keeley

It's Membership Renewal Time!

WWCA Membership runs May I 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!

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: November 22 for the December issue. Submit articles and final PDF or JPG ad artwork, as well as feedback or questions to: Wire Editor, west_walker_wire@yahoo.com.

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Follow West Walker Civic Association on Facebook!

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Filament Theatre Announces Its 2024–25 Season!

This season will see the return and expansion of an audience favorite, a celebration of multi-generational families through two AAPI-centered productions, plus a first-time collaboration with Jeff Award winning Chicago company, Teatro Vista Productions.

FORTS: Build Your Own Adventure: November 30– January 5 (on sale now!)

FORTS at Writers: February 15-April 6

Juliet Kang Huneke's Hannah and Halmoni Save the World: March 22-April 20

Lee Cataluna's Heart Strings: March 22-April 20

Teatro Vista Productions Collaboration: June 2025

Filament Theatre is located at 4041 N. Milwaukee Ave. For more information or to buy FORTS tickets, visit https://ci.ovationtix.com/35466 or www.filamenttheatre.org.

Invictus Theater Presents Shakespeare's The Tragedy of Macbeth

Join Invictus Theater at Windy City Playhouse (3014 W. Irving Park Rd.) for their latest production of *The Tragedy of Macbeth* by William Shakespeare, **running now through Sunday, December 15.**

On **Friday, November 15**, see a special sword demonstration and combat lesson before the show!

Tickets are \$38 and can be purchased at: www.invictustheatreco.com/macbeth.

2024 GIPNA Holiday Cookie Exchange

Join GIPNA on **Monday, December 2, from 6:30–8:30 pm** for their Holiday Cookie Exchange at the Cabin at Old Irving, 4104 N. Pulaski Rd.

Bring 5 dozen of your favorite holiday cookies or candy to share. You'll receive a cookie box to fill as you peruse the offerings. Include a printout of your recipe for participants to photograph, or make copies to hand out.

For more information and to sign up, visit https://tinyurl.com/2024GIPNACookieExchange or email Bobbie@GIPNA.org or Christopher@GIPNA.org.

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November 2024

West Walker Civic Association



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