



WEST WALKER WIRE

JANUARY 2025

www.westwalkercivic.org

Holiday Tree Recycling at 27 Citywide Locations, January 11–25

The Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation (DSS), in partnership with the Chicago Park District, is hosting their annual Holiday Tree Recycling Program at 27 locations throughout Chicago.

Each year, thousands of trees are mulched through the program, diverting trees from landfills and creating mulch for city residents, parks and forests.

Live and natural holiday trees can be dropped off inside the tree recycling corrals at the designated locations. All ornaments, lights, tinsel and tree stands must be removed before the tree is dropped off. Plastic bags used for transport should also be removed prior to placing the trees in the corrals.

Drop off your tree to be recycled at any of the 27 locations listed. Free mulch will be available to residents for pick up at six designated locations (marked with an asterisk* below) beginning **Monday, January 13**. For more information, call 312-744-2413 or visit chicagorecycles.org.

BESSEMER PARK

8930 S. Muskegon Ave.

HUMBOLDT PARK BOATHOUSE

1301 N. Humboldt Dr.

LINCOLN PARK*

Cannon Dr. at Fullerton Ave.
(East Side of Cannon Dr.)

SHERIDAN PARK

910 S. Aberdeen St.

Continued on page 2

WITHIN THE WIRE...

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mon., Jan. 13 • 5:30 pm

Haugan Elementary LSC Meeting
School Library (enter through Door 1)
4540 N. Hamlin Ave.

Mon., Jan. 13 • 6:30 pm

Athletic Field Advisory Council Meeting
3546 W. Addison St.

Wed., Jan. 15 • 7 pm

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

Sun., Jan. 19 • 2 pm

Irving Park Fine Arts Concert featuring
violin & cello duo, Missing Piece
Irving Park Lutheran Church
4100 N. Harding Ave.
FREE! For more info, see page 5.

Sun., Feb. 2 • 10 am–2 pm

Winter Sunday Market Series:
Valentine's Day/Superbowl Prep
Irish American Heritage Center
4626 N. Knox Ave.
www.jeffersonparksundaymarket.com

Tues., Feb. 4 • 7 pm

GIPNA Board Meeting
At the Bungalow or via Google:
<https://meet.google.com/nkn-dcgc-tfd>

Mon., Feb. 10 • 5:30 pm

Haugan Elementary LSC Meeting
School Library (enter through Door 1)
4540 N. Hamlin Ave.

Sat., Feb. 15 • TBA

WWCA Barndance
Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym
4057 N. Harding Ave.
Info and tickets: www.westwalkercivic.org

Fri., Feb. 28 • 7 pm

Carlson Community Services presents
the Bad Momz of Comedy
Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym
4057 N. Harding Ave.
For more info, see page 5.



Dear Neighbor,

I hope the holiday season treated you all well. It's hard to believe we are already into 2025. As we move into cold and snow, I'm excited to give you something to look forward to with our Barndance, set for the evening of **Saturday, February 15**, in the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym, 4057 N. Harding Ave. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.westwalkercivic.org or the WWCA Facebook page. This event will have a barn theme, but all types of music will be played. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the committee planning or to work the event, please reach out to Helen Lira at helen@chilira.com.

In order to help the association better track dues, we are moving to an annual membership renewal in January of each year. Anyone who paid for a membership in September 2024 or later is set through 2025, but anyone who paid earlier in 2024 would be due for a renewal now in January. You can pay your dues electronically via Zelle (preferred) or Venmo. For more information, visit www.westwalkercivic.org/membership/become-a-member or see page 10 of this issue. When paying, please be sure to leave your name and email in the memo field so we know who to apply the dues to.

Lastly, our editor, Heather McLane, is stepping down from her post this month after many years. We appreciate all her dedication to making the Wire look beautiful every month! We have a new volunteer stepping in, and we welcome Kim Pecka into this role.

Until next month,

Erin Hunter
WWCA President

Continued from front cover

- FORESTRY SITE*
900 E. 103rd St.
- KENNEDY PARK
2427 W. 113th St.
- MCKINLEY PARK
2210 W. Pershing Rd.
- PORTAGE PARK
4100 N. Long Ave.
- MARQUETTE PARK
6700 S. Kedzie Ave.
- WEST CHATHAM PARK
8223 S. Princeton Ave.
- ROWAN PARK
11546 S. Avenue L
- NORWOOD PARK (Service Yard)
5800 N. Avondale Ave.

Continued on page 3

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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Mike Webber

CAPS COORDINATOR

Vacant

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- Pat Ruch
- Raquel Ruiz
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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.



Continued from page 2

WARREN PARK*
6601 N. Western Ave.

GRANT PARK
900 S. Columbus Dr.

LAKE MEADOWS PARK
3117 S. Rhodes Ave.

WALSH PARK
1722 N. Ashland Ave.

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3721 W. 111th St.

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RIIS PARK
6201 W. Wrightwood Ave.

WENTWORTH PARK
5701 S. Narragansett Ave.

HIAWATHA PARK
8029 W. Forest Preserve Dr.

It's Mighty Nice on the Ice at Chicago Parks!

The Chicago Park District opens its five outdoor neighborhood ice rinks—Midway Plaisance Park, Mt. Greenwood Park, Warren Park, Wentworth Park, and McKinley Park, plus the Maggie Daley Park Ice Skating Ribbon—to offer ice skating lessons, open skate hours, and speed competitions **now through Presidents Day, Monday, February 17**, weather permitting.

To see open skate and senior skate hours, lesson sign-up information, and skate rental rates, visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/ice-rinks and select a rink nearest you via the interactive map!



REAL ESTATE NEWS

By Dorie Westmeyer
Realtor®, MBA, ADPR

Your Neighborhood Realtor!

What Can We Expect in 2025?

2024 saw a bit of a slowdown in the housing market due to higher mortgage interest rates for buyers, and sellers who were hesitant to trade their low mortgage rate for a higher mortgage rate on the purchase of a new home.

Here's what experts say we can expect in 2025:

- 1. Mortgage rates will decline to around 6% in 2025.** Rates are currently around 6.5% to 6.75%. If inflation remains low, and the job market stays strong, we could see the Fed cut rates further in 2025.
- 2. Home price growth will slow down to pre-pandemic levels.** Home prices are expected to be unpredictable. Some predict flat prices while others project prices to increase 3–4% in 2025.
- 3. We will see an increase in buyers and sellers.** Many have been waiting for lower mortgage rates. There will be more homes for sale in 2025. Buyers and sellers are tired of waiting and ready to move on due to job changes, retirement, desire to be closer to family, ready to downsize...
- 4. Other affordability factors may have an impact.** Insurance costs and property taxes are increasing.
- 5. Rents will remain flat.** Builders increased multi-unit construction. Since there will be more apartments available for rent, rents may be a bit more negotiable.

Sources: Realtor.com, NAR, NBC

Thinking of selling in the next 12 months and want to know what your home is worth? Please call me for a free home consultation.

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



St. Edward School Events

Come experience the difference our St. Edward community makes in the life of your child and family by attending any of

the following upcoming events:

- **Lil' Red Tot Spot:** A play group for kids and their parent/guardian. Every Tuesday morning from 9:30 am-noon in Unity Hall (church basement, 4350 W. Sunnyside Ave.)
- **Trivia Night:** Saturday, January 11, 7 pm (adults only)
- **School Open House:** Sunday, January 26, 10:30 am-1 pm
- **Chili Cook-Off:** Saturday, February 1, 5:30-9 pm (kids and adults)
- **Ed-a-Palooza Music Fest:** Sunday, February 2, 12-6 pm at the Irish American Heritage Center (4626 N. Knox Ave.)

We offer an award-winning academic program, diverse extracurricular activities, a community like no other, and we teach traditional values like loving our neighbor as

ourselves. Group tours are offered on select Welcome Wednesdays, or you can schedule a private tour at any time. For more information on tours or any of our events, visit www.stedwardchicago.org

St. Viator Elementary Events

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!

2025 Dates: 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.

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Is the Market Still Strong?



SOLD

4107 N Springfield



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1350 W Byron



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News and Events

A 501(c)(3) non-profit connecting

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

Happy New Year & Thank You for Your Support in 2024

Thank you to our West Walker neighbors for all your support throughout 2024. It is appreciated and humbling to have neighbors attending Fine Arts Committee concerts and supporting Carlson at fundraising events such as Trivia Night & Bad Momz. Neighbors opening their doors to hand out candy to Magic After-School Place students as they trick-or-treat on Harding Avenue, and of course, the unwavering support of Pastor Erin Bouman and Irving Park Lutheran Church for the generous use of their spaces. Carlson Community Services' Staff and Board of Directors feel fortunate to have the support and friendship of neighbors in the West Walker neighborhood. Wishing you a Happy New Year!



Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents Violin & Cello Duo Missing Piece

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee will present a free concert featuring southside Chicago violin and cello duo, Missing Piece, on **Sunday, January 19 at 2 pm**. The concert will be held at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave.

Missing Piece features violinist Dan Galat and cellist Kelly Quesada, who endeavor to commission new musical works and works from other artistic disciplines on themes that inspire others to connect with their community, care for our environment, listen deeply to ourselves and others, and speak out against injustice.

Admission to the concert is free; donations are appreciated to support future programming.

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.

The Bad Momz Return on February 28

Mark your calendar! The Bad Momz of Comedy will return to the Irving Park neighborhood on **Friday, February 28**, for a show to benefit Carlson Community Services. Doors open at 7 pm, show starts at 7:30 pm. For details and ticket sales, visit our Facebook page or www.carlsoncommunityservices.org and scroll to the bottom of the home page to sign up for email updates.

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 to sign up for our email newsletter, or direct inquiries to Sara Yoest, Executive Director, at 312-810-3230 or sarayoest@carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Independence Parka

by erica dreisbach



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DONATION DROP OFF: on behalf of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, Mon-Fri, 10 am-4 pm
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Irving Park Community Food Pantry News

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

Pantry Seeks Toiletries

The Pantry provides clients with the most in-need personal-care items: toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, body wash, razors and shaving cream. These popular items are difficult to keep stocked.

To alleviate 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 Big Helpers, 4184 N. Elston Ave., Monday through Friday, 10 am-4 pm, or the front porch of 3912 N. Kenneth any time. To make a contact-free donation from our Amazon registry, scan this QR code. We appreciate

your help to fill this ongoing need!

Thank you to the Old Irving Park Women’s Association, who donated the proceeds from its Annual Sip & Shop in November. The program, hosted by Tatas Kitchen & Social, featured more than a dozen vendors.

Thank you to Culver’s, 4939 W. Irving Park Rd., for running a “Concretes for a Cause” program for us in November. A portion of their proceeds resulted in a donation totaling \$612.48!

Thank you to everyone who donated to our holiday programs, in which we 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 for these programs can still be made via PayPal at www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org or via check to Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago IL 60618.

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 support and donations, which help us meet our mission of being “Neighbors Helping Neighbors!”

For more info about the pantry, contact John Psiharis, Executive Director, at info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org or visit www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org.



Greg Shea, Danny Ehle (Culver’s manager/owner), Lynne Anderson and Jessica promote the restaurant’s November donation to the Pantry. Photo courtesy Lynne Anderson



Members of Mt. Olive Church dropped off 25 boxes of food and \$280 in contributions from their annual “shopping drive” for the Pantry at the Six Corners Jewel Osco in November. Photo by Laura Barnes



Board member Liz Mills accepts a donation from the Old Irving Park Women’s Association, with (l-r) Anne Lenzini of Compass Real Estate, Laurie Bish of Goosehead Insurance and Marci Berner of Tatas. Photo courtesy OIPWA



Mary Ann Ballard holds some of the toiletries offered to clients each week. Photo by Craig Shutt

Irving Park Lutheran Church News & Events

Book Groups

In November, the Women's Book Club of Irving Park Lutheran Church selected their 2025 titles. (See the complete list at www.iplc.org then choose Connect: Church Small Groups.) So many wonderful conversations emerge from these book discussions, and 2025 should be just as interesting. Having other opportunities to read and chat can only add to the richness of relationships at and through IPLC. There is room for other identity-affiliated book groups, such as BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, Men/masc, nonbinary, as well as topic/genre-related nonfiction, mystery, spiritual and so forth. If you're interested in starting a group, please contact Nancy Hall at nansplainer@gmail.com.

New Year Bible Study: Exodus

We continue our journey theme, focusing on a book named for departure. In the book of Exodus, we learn that God prepares, calls, leads and forgives a chosen people, then and now. Join us on **Sundays from 9:15-10:15 am** in the Chapel. The 6-session course continues through early February, exploring selected passages from Exodus, including:

1. A Page is Turned: How is God preparing us to continue the story?
2. Discerning the Call: Why me? Couldn't someone else go instead?
3. A Plague on Your House: How is God at work in human history?
4. Let My People Go! How does God lead and provide for the needs of all?
5. Laying Down the Law: What does God expect from us?
6. Don't Have a Cow! How does God deal with those who fail to meet expectations?

Celebrating Reconciling in Christ Sunday Worship & Potluck

Sunday, January 26 is a day many Reconciling in Christ or RIC (a designation for Lutheran churches that affirm people who are LGBTQIA+) churches celebrate & renew commitments to welcome and inclusion. The 10:30 am service this year will include special music, testimony and prayers, and be followed by a potluck! (Tradition + Transformation = What Lutherans Do.) Join us for a day that celebrates diversity and the different gifts people bring. (We do hope someone brings rainbow Jello.)

Chicago Bibles & Books

3931 W. Irving Park Rd.

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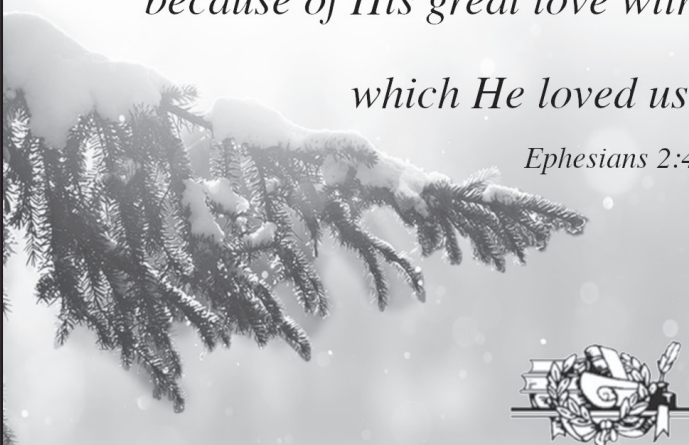
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because of His great love with

which He loved us,

Ephesians 2:4



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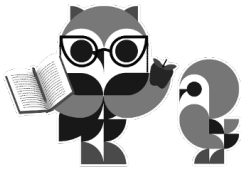
CHALLENGE



- Clean Your Kitchen
- Organize For Easy Meal Prep
- Restock With Healthy Ingredients

JOIN NOW





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.

**Closed January 20 and February 17.*

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 January 8 or February 12.*

Musical Story & Instrument Petting Zoo with Musette Strings

For ages 3-9.

Saturday, January 4 at 3 pm A string quartet from the music school Musette Strings will accompany a reading of "Because" by Mo Willems. This inspiring story celebrates the chain of events that ignite a young girl's lifelong love of music. Following the performance, children are invited to touch and try string instruments.

Make Your Mark: Weaving For ages 6+.

Thursday, January 9 & 23 at 4:30 pm Learn the basics of loom weaving and take home your own cardboard loom to practice on. Express your creativity and explore new mediums of artistic expression. Create one-of-a-kind art pieces to take home and keep!

Pajama Stories For ages up to 6 years old.

Thursday, January 16 at 6 pm Join us for stories before bed. Snack provided.

Community Cinema

Saturday, January 18:

11 am: *The Wild Robot*, 2024, PG

1 pm: *Transformers One*, 2024, PG-13

Sunday, January 19:

2 pm: *It Ends With Us*, 2024, PG-13

Silent Book Club For adults.

Thursday, January 23 at 6 pm Readers and introverts unite! Join us for 45 minutes of independent reading of whatever you like. Light refreshments will be provided.

LEGO® Play For ages 5+.

Thursday, February 13 at 4:30 pm Build and inspire others with your creations. All builds will be displayed with a juice box reception to follow.

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

Continued from page 4

Primary Gym Play Program

Just in time for the winter weather! St. Viator's Primary Gym program meets on **Saturdays, January 25 and February 2, 8 and 22, from 8-10 am** in the St. Viator Rec Center Gym, 3644 N. Kedvale. The program is free and open to children ages 3-3rd grade attending St. Viator as well as the community at large. Note: Primary Gym is not a drop-off program. We ask that parents stay with their little ones during the playtime.

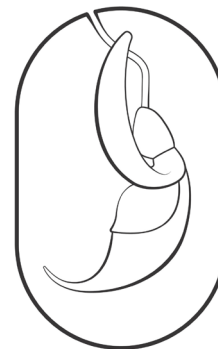
With play mats, assorted balls and toys, slides, and more, Primary Gym is a lot of fun for the kids, a great way to get to know St. Viator families, and a terrific way to start the weekend in a warm and safe environment! Contact St. Viator's school office with questions at 773-545-2173.

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WWCA Members

THANK YOU to the neighbors who joined or renewed as of January:
Rick & Melanie Reschke
Sami & John Nordmark
Elena & Emilio Valentine
Donald & Mary Chun

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 24 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 January 1 through December 31 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!



Follow West Walker Civic Association on Facebook!

Mail in your 2025 dues along with the application below.

WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yearly Membership Dues: Effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

Check one:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY ANNUAL \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY LIFETIME \$350 | <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL LIFETIME \$200 | <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR \$10 |

NAME: _____

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

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____



Payment options:

- ZELLE (preferred): westwalker.2010@gmail.com or scan the QR code at left
- VENMO: @westwalkercivic
- PAYPAL: paypal.me/westwalkercivic
- 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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