



# WEST WALKER WIRE

APRIL 2025

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

## Let's Join Together for a Neighborhood Clean Up on April 26 *by Stephen Brown*

Celebrate Earth Day by making a real difference in your community! Join your West Walker neighbors on **Saturday, April 26, from 9 - 11 am**, for a volunteer clean-up event to benefit our West Walker welcome sign area and the adjacent street corners. We will be collecting trash, pulling weeds, and fertilizing the soil to keep our neighborhood beautiful. Our meeting point will be **Café Urbano** (4176 N Elston Ave) where we will review our projects for the day before heading out to work together in teams.



This will be our second year cleaning up the West Walker welcome sign, which is a highly visible part of our neighborhood along the busy Elston commercial corridor. Volunteering is a great way to give back to your neighborhood and take pride in the place we call home. Cleaner, greener street corners and sidewalks make them more inviting and enjoyable. Plus, by spending time outdoors and working together, you might even meet new acquaintances or see old friends.

This event is open to volunteers of all ages, so bring your friends and family along! Please dress for the weather and bring gardening gloves if you have them. We look forward to seeing you on the 26th! Please look for more details in an upcoming West Walker email blast.

## WITHIN THE WIRE...

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Sunday, April 13 • 8:30 am - 1 pm**  
 Boy Scout Troop 904's 50th Annual All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast  
 St. Edward's Church Gym  
 4350 W. Sunnyside Ave.  
*Visit [bsatrop904.com](http://bsatrop904.com) for more information*

**Sunday, April 20 • 10 am**  
 Easter Egg Hunt  
 Irving Park Lutheran Church  
 4100 N. Harding Ave.  
*See more information on page 8*

**Tuesday, April 22 • 6:30 pm**  
 West Walker Civic Association General Meeting  
 Tavern at the Color Club  
 4146 N. Elston Ave.

**Saturday, April 26 • 9 - 11 am**  
 Neighborhood Clean Up Around West Walker Civic Association Welcome Sign  
 Meeting Point: Cafe Urbano  
 4176 N. Elston Ave.

**Saturday, May 3 • 12 - 4 pm**  
 Explore Irving Park Chicago Mother's Day Hop  
*See list of participating businesses on page 11*

**Saturday, May 17 • 9 am - 3 pm**  
 38th Annual West Walker Garage and Yard Sale

**Sunday, May 18 • 2 pm**  
 Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series presents the Flannau Duo, featuring Jonathan Hannau: piano and Kyle Flens: percussion  
 Irving Park Lutheran Church  
 4100 N. Harding Ave.  
*Free event with reception to follow*



# Dear Neighbor,

**Spring is here!** I hope you are all enjoying the warmer weather as much as I am. There are several things that I would like to update you all on this month:

On **Tuesday, April 22**, we are having the **first general meeting of the Association** in over five years. The general meeting will take place at the Tavern at the Color Club (4146 N Elston) at **6:30 pm**. Come to hear from Alderman Samantha Nugent and our WWCA Executive Board. Feel free to stick around after to socialize with neighbors - the bar will be open at the Tavern. This event is free to attend, with a cash bar.

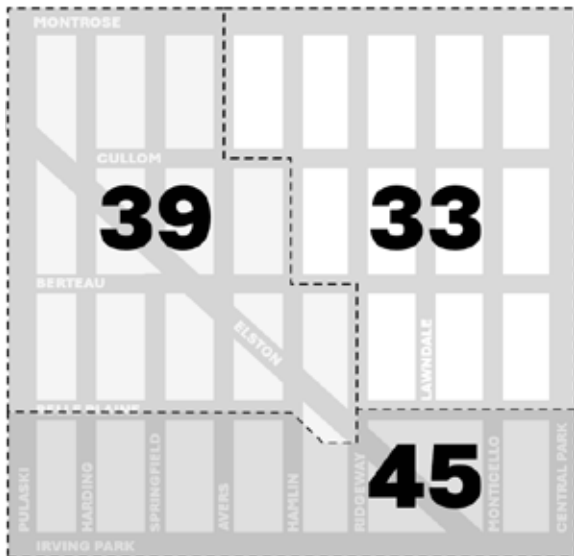
On **Saturday, May 3**, Explore Irving Park Chicago will hold their **2025 Mother's Day Hop** from **12 am to 4 pm**. The organization will provide transportation between participating small businesses and have some surprises in store. For more information, please follow exploreirvingparkchicago on Instagram, Explore Irving Park Chicago on Facebook or go to exploreirvingparkchicago.com.

On **Saturday, May 17**, from **9 am to 3 pm**, the **38th Annual West Walker Garage and Yard Sale** will take place. It's free to shop or to participate, but participants will need a permit from their alderperson. For more information, please check out our website: westwalkercivic.org/events. If you'd like to assist with the garage sale, please reach out to Erin Hunter at jankow2003@gmail.com.

I hope to see you all at these events.

**Until next month,**  
*Erin Hunter*  
WWCA President

### Ward Map and Alderperson Contact Information:



**WARD 33**  
Rossanna Rodriguez  
773-840-7880  
33rdward.org

**WARD 39**  
Samantha Nugent  
773-736-5594

**WARD 45**  
Jim Gardiner  
773-853-0799  
aldermangardiner.com

# 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

### WEST WALKER CARRIER STAFF

Chris & Maeve Altman  
Carol Barry  
Tori Bohannon & John Lopez  
Goddard Family  
Kotche Family  
Alison & Nick McHugh  
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Kris Nowak  
Jeanne Pozy & Joel Reese  
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Pat Ruch  
Jenni & Michael Kus  
Elisa Walsh  
Sue Trudeau & Tom Williams

### EDITOR

Kim Pecka

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:shannan@solsticepr.com).



### St. Edward School Events

Experience our St. Edward Community!

Join us at any of our upcoming events this

month and experience our community firsthand!

Our annual Big Red Auction is taking place on **Saturday, April 5**, starting at **7:00pm** in Unity Hall. Any families interested in our award-winning school can meet many of our current families and alumni at the Big Red Auction, which supports our school students.

Many people are still seeking community outside of the internet and we have a vibrant, loving, strong community built on 126 years of following Jesus Christ in our One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. Join us at any of these events to experience our community for yourself and hopefully make St. Edward home for your family.

To tour our school, families are welcome to attend a Welcome Wednesday Tour on **May 7** starting at **8:30am**. These tours are given by our principal and members of our school board. You can always schedule a tour that is more convenient for you by visiting our website, [www.stedwardchicago.org](http://www.stedwardchicago.org). Registration is open for our 2025-2026 school year! Contact the school anytime at 773-736-9133.

### Blazing Star School News

Blazing Star School is a self-directed learning center located right here in West Walker. Our school-year and summer programming focuses on exploration-based art, science, nature, and adventure, for ages 4-12! Visit [www.blazingstarschool.com](http://www.blazingstarschool.com) or email [blazingstarschool@gmail.com](mailto:blazingstarschool@gmail.com) for more info on any of our programs.

## Is Now A Good Time to Sell?



**SOLD**

**4122 N Lawndale**



**SOLD**

**4037 N Hamlin**



**SOLD**

**4340 N Springfield**



**SOLD**

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**SOLD**

**4107 N Springfield**

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Dorie Westmeyer  
Realtor,<sup>®</sup> MBA, ADPR  
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### 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.  
*April 10 and 24*

**Story Time** For ages up to 5.  
**Wednesdays at 10:30 am**  
Talk, sing, read, write, and stay to play with us!  
*April 2, 9, 16, and 23*

**LEGO® Play** For ages 5+.  
**Thursday, April 10 at 4:30 pm**  
Build and inspire others with your creations. All builds will be displayed with a juice box reception to follow.

**Pajama Stories** For ages up to 6 years old.  
**Thursday, April 24 at 6 pm**  
Join us for stories before bed. Snack provided.

**Make Your Mark: Magnificent Mosaic**  
**Thursday, April 17 at 4:30 pm**  
Learn about the history of mosaics and experiment with materials and patterns to make your own take-home mosaic coaster!

**Community Cinema**  
**Saturday, April 12**  
11 am: *Moana 2, 2024, PG*  
1 pm: *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire, 2024, PG-13*  
**Sunday, April 13**  
2 pm: *Deaf Jam, 2011, PG-13*

**Silent Book Club** For adults  
**Sunday, April 27 at 6 pm**  
Join us for 45 minutes of independent reading of whatever you like. Light refreshments will be provided.

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

### Independence Parka

by erica dreisbach



"It's fine, it'll just become two worms."

"Well i am a HUMAN, and at best that seems RUDE."



Annelid? i hardly know a lid!

*april showers bring  
may flowers*

Help us create a garden of flowers to be featured in the May edition of the West Walker Wire!

Neighbors of all ages are invited to draw, color, paint, collage, or even photograph your favorite flower and submit it to [west\\_walker\\_wire@yahoo.com](mailto:west_walker_wire@yahoo.com) to be included in the West Walker Community Garden.

Please submit a photo of your flower by **April 25, 2025.**





**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 Free Concert

The fourth and final concert of the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee's 31st season will take place on **Sunday, May 18** at **2:00 pm** at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Avenue. A reception will follow.

We will welcome Flannau Duo, a dynamic, new music loving, tour-de-force ensemble combining piano, percussion, electronics, improvisation, and absurdism! The duo members are Jonathan Hannau: piano, and Kyle Flens: percussion. Jon and Kyle first performed together as part of the 2021 Thirsty Ears Festival. Shortly after, they schemed to create an official identity for themselves, solely out of puns and hybrid names. They wear flannels to all their concerts! The duo specializes in eclectic programming, not adhering to any specific musical aesthetic. Flannau Duo performs in the Chicago area and beyond, exploring a multitude of sounds, styles, and moods from composers and artists from every musical corner. The duo is the recipient of a 2023 Chicago DCASE individual artist grant. More info: [www.flannauduo.com](http://www.flannauduo.com)

The intent of the Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series is to bring high quality, professional music to the northwest side of Chicago, free of charge, and to provide professional Chicagoland artists a venue for performance and growth. The 31st season was supported in part by a generous donation from Dr. & Mrs. Dominick and Sylvia Maino.

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](http://www.carlsoncommunityservices.org) or direct inquiries to Sara Yost, Executive Director of Carlson Community Services at 312-810-3230 or [sarayost@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:sarayost@carlsoncommunityservices.org).

*Flannau Duo:  
Jonathan - Piano  
Kyle - Percussion*



# Spring Sale

20% off **April 14 - May 10** 20% off

## One Item of Your Choice

*"Flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come..."* Song of Songs 2:12a

**Chicago Bibles & Books**  
3931 W. Irving Park Rd.  
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**Food Pantry**

**APRIL 1ST - APRIL 30TH**

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SAUSAGE HOUSE & BEER GARDEN

**TAQUIZAS VALDEZ**

**Chef Art Wnorowski**      **Chef Ivan Valdez**

### Restaurants Create 'Bite Club' Fundraiser

Two local restaurants are collaborating on a month-long "Bite Club" fundraiser during April in which they will swap ingredients to create dishes and donate some of the proceeds to the **Irving Park Food Pantry**. Chef Art Wnorowski of **Wurst Behavior** (4009 N Elston Ave.) and Chef Ivan Valdez of **Taquizas Valdez** (3038 W Irving Park Rd.) will offer two creations:

- **Beef Birria Pierogi** (\$17) – Available only at **Wurst Behavior**, this plate features five pierogi, crispy onions, savory consome, and cilantro crema, handmade by Chef Art, with the birria by Chef Ivan.
- **Andouille Sausage Cali-Style Breakfast Burrito** (\$17) – Available only at **Taquizas Valdez**, the burrito features scrambled eggs, crispy fries, Muenster cheese, black beans, pickled red onions, avocado-jalapeño crema, cilantro, and andouille sausage crafted by Chef Art.

With every dish purchased, the restaurants will donate \$1 to the Pantry during the entire month of April. You can eat good food and fight hunger at the same time!

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# Irving Park Community Food Pantry News

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

## Toiletries Needed for Pantry

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

To alleviate these shortages, we are asking for donations (or drives) of the basic toiletry items, as well as, other popular options such as body lotion, conditioner, sunscreen, lip balm, larger sizes of diapers (#5 and #6), adult diapers, washcloths, and baby wipes. This QR code will take you to our Amazon registry to have donations sent directly to us.



Locally purchased donations can be dropped off at the Big Helpers store at 4184 N. Elston Ave. from 10 to 4 pm, Monday through Friday or on the front porch at 3912 N. Kenneth any time. You also can make a contact-free donation from our Amazon registry using the QR code on this page. We appreciate your help to fill this ongoing need!

Members of the Pantry's Community Engagement Team staffed our booth at Chicago's CityKey card program in February at the Irish-American Heritage Center. They answered questions about the Pantry and registered eligible visitors into the GCFD Pantry system, of which we are a member.

The CityKey card program provides an optional, valid, government-issued ID card available to all Chicago residents. It not only offers identification but provides other benefits and discounts. No registration or pre-qualification is needed, and every Chicagoan is eligible regardless of age, insurance, income, health, or immigration status.

We're proud to say that, thanks to all of our supporters who voted, we are the recipient of a grant of \$2,500 from the GBU Life Foundation! The group held a competition among various regional charitable groups and our supporters voted for us, putting us into third place. We appreciate the support!

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry is open on Wednesday mornings from 9 am - 12 pm and on the second Tuesday of each month from 6 - 7 pm. The Pantry is located at 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave.

For more info about the pantry, contact John Psiharis, Executive Director, at [info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org](mailto:info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org) or visit [www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org).



**Amy Grabowski** shows off some of the toiletries the Pantry lets clients choose among during their monthly shopping trip.

*Pantry volunteers answered questions at a recent event for Chicago's CityKey card program at the Irish American Heritage Center.*



**The Nimble Thimbles** knitting group that meets at the Irish American Heritage Center donated a big batch of winter wear to the Pantry, which was quickly given out to clients.

*Members of the Park Ridge Wilderness Scouts & Princesses assemble baskets for the Pantry's program to provide goodies to clients' children.*



## Irving Park Lutheran Church News & Events

### Palm/Passion Sunday - April 13

**Bake Sale - 9:30 am & after worship**

**Procession & Reading of the Passion - 10:30 am**

On this special day, worship begins in Victory Hall with a blessing of the palms, then we parade around outside, waving the palms, and shouting "Hosanna!" (You may also begin worship in the sanctuary and then be joined by those parading in.) The service also includes reading of the Passion according to Luke.

### Maundy Thursday - April 17

**Meal, Service, and Stripping of the Altar - 6 - 8 pm**

Join us for Middle Eastern food and festive adult beverages. Come as early as 5:30 pm - the meal will be served promptly at 6 pm. As we finish dining, we'll share Holy Communion. The evening continues with an opportunity for footwashing. After, we will move to the sanctuary for the solemn Stripping of the Altar, ritually remembering Jesus' stripping and abandonment.

### Good Friday - April 18

**Tenebrae Service - 7 pm**

We will gather in silence, entering a stark and bare sanctuary. We hear the story of Jesus' passion, according to John, interspersed with moving music. As the service progresses, the church grows yet darker, as with each reading and song a candle is snuffed. The processional Bible is slammed shut. God's body is placed in a tomb. We depart with solemnity.

### Easter Sunday - April 20

**Easter Breakfast - 9 - 10:30 am**

**Egg Hunt - 10 am**

**Worship - 10:30 am**

Come to church for food and fellowship starting at 9 am. At 10 am, there will be an egg hunt for children in the Sunday school classrooms. Join us at 10:30 am for worship in the sanctuary with festive worship and much rejoicing.

### Two Pianos Available

Irving Park Lutheran Church is looking for homes for two pianos. (They are somewhat worse for wear.) If interested, check them out and contact the Office (office@iplc.org or 773-267-1666).

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17TH DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY POLICING

## 2025 PROM WEAR DRIVE

For the Seniors of local high schools

We are accepting the following new or gently worn items in all sizes:

- Formal Long & Short Dresses
- Suit Jackets & Slacks
- Shoes
- Jewelry
- Handbags & Clutches



Donations can be made at the 17th District - 4650 N. Pulaski Road or contact the 17th District CAPS Office to schedule a pick up

### QUESTIONS?

Please contact the 17th District CAPS Office at (312) 742-4588 or at CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org





The WWCA is thrilled to share the incredible success of the **West Walker Civic Association Hootenanny Fundraiser!** Thanks to the enthusiasm, generosity, and hard work of our community, we were able to raise **\$4,000** to continue supporting community initiatives that increase engagement and community. The event was a fantastic evening filled with great music, lively line dancing, and a true sense of community spirit. From our talented line dance callers to the dedicated volunteers and generous donors, everyone played a vital role in making this fundraiser a night to remember. A special thank you to **The Cabin, The Fat Cat, and Hootenanny committee members** for their invaluable support. Also, a big shout out to **Erin Bouman (IPLC)** for the wonderful event space. Your contributions helped create an event that not only met, but exceeded our expectations. This success is a testament to the strength of our community and the shared commitment to making a difference. We look forward to building on this momentum and seeing you all at future events! Thank you once again for your support and dedication.

Best regards,  
West Walker Civic Association Board Members



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# WWCA Members

## Have you renewed your membership yet for 2025?

WWCA Membership runs January 1 through December 31 annually. Your dues help fund a variety of items:

- Ten (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!

Welcome new members:  
 Bobby & Jessie DeThomasis

Thank you to renewing members:  
 Philip & Roberta Bole  
 Irving Park Lutheran Church  
 Liz & Steve Mills

**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



# EXPLORE

## Irving Park Chicago



### Shop Local

Support small businesses in Irving Park! Pick up your passport then walk, bike, or hop in one of the EIPC taxis to each of our designated stops!



### Visit New Places

Enjoy freebies, fun and experiences at each business and don't forget to grab a sticker or a stamp for your passport at each location to win a chance to be entered in the raffle.



### Celebrate moms!

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

### MORE INFO



Follow US

- exploreirvingparkchicago.com
- @exploreirvingparkchicago
- Explore Irving Park Chicago

## MOTHER'S DAY HOP 2025! SATURDAY, MAY 3 12PM-4PM



Some of the participating businesses - with more to be announced soon:

- KR Dance Studio
- Bonnie Flowers
- Katherine Anne Confections
- Kayo Ceramics
- Wands And Wishes Occasions
- Extensions Dance
- Le Village Learners & Le Village CoWork

- JT's Genuine Sandwich Shop
- Lot'sa
- Color Club
- Our Mutual City Coffee
- The Jade Vine
- Buona Terra

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Connie and her team...made miracles happen in terms of managing contractors and getting work done on a tight timeframe. Our listing looked fantastic and received a lot of attention.

Connie helped us think through how to manage multiple offers, and communicated with us closely through the entire experience.

**WE WOULD RECOMMEND HER WITHOUT RESERVATION!"**

**CHE**

*Connie Engel*

773-251-3837

connieengel.com

cengel@atproperties.com

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CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

