



WEST WALKER WIRE

NOVEMBER 2025

www.westwalkercivic.org

Trunk or Treat Event Brings Halloween Fun to the Neighborhood *by Stephen Brown*

Last Sunday's **Trunk or Treat** proved that Halloween spirit is alive and well in West Walker! Hosted by **Explore Irving Park Chicago** in the parking lot of **Midtown Funeral Home** (perhaps the most fitting spooky spot) the event drew hundreds of families for an afternoon of costumes, candy, and community fun.



Around twenty local businesses and organizations set up festive trunks and booths, each offering games, goodies, or ghoulish surprises. This year marked the WWCA's first time participating and our booth was a hit with both kids and grownups. Young visitors tested their skills with Halloween-themed word searches, while adults picked up free daffodil bulbs to plant for a bright burst of spring cheer.

A big thank-you to **Explore Irving Park Chicago** for making such a lively neighborhood tradition and to all the families who stopped by our booth to share in the fun!



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, November 8 • 5:00 pm

GIPNA Annual Wine & Cheese
Fundraiser for Murphy School
Color Club Ballroom
4146 N. Elston Avenue

Tickets available at gipna.org

Saturday, November 15 • 5:30 pm

Bingo Night
St. Edward Parish Unity Hall
4350 W. Sunnyside Avenue

Saturday, November 15 • 6:30 pm

Carlson Community Services'
TRIVIA NIGHT Fundraiser
Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym
4057 N. Harding Avenue

Saturday, November 22 • 5:00 pm

Scout Spaghetti Dinner
St. Edward Parish Buckley Hall
4350 W. Sunnyside Avenue

Friday, December 5 • 5:00 pm

Neighbors Night Out
The Cabin at Old Irving
4104 N. Pulaski Avenue

Sunday, December 7 • 8:00 am - 1:00

Breakfast with Santa
St. Edward Parish Buckley Hall
4350 W. Sunnyside Avenue

Sunday, December 14 • 2:00 pm

Breakfast with Santa
Irving Park Fine Arts Concert
Eclectic Holiday
Irving Park Lutheran Church
4100 N. Harding Avenue
Free! Reception to follow.

WITHIN THE WIRE...

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Dear Neighbor,

I hope these last days of fall are treating you well. I've enjoyed looking at everyone's Halloween decorations throughout the neighborhood as I walked my dog in the evenings and even the one Christmas tree I saw up in early October.

I wanted to thank everyone who came out to our second **Front Porch Friday** in the 4000 block of Avers. That will be the last one for 2025 but we aim to pick this back up in the spring. I also want to thank those neighbors who stopped by to visit us at the **Explore Irving Park Trunk or Treat** on October 26th.

The Board does not have any November events planned but please save the date for **Neighbors Night Out** at **The Cabin** on **Friday, December 5th**. Please check our Facebook page or website in the coming weeks for more information.

For 2026, the Board is looking to bring back the **Hootenanny**- but only if we have enough volunteers to make it happen. If you'd be interested in volunteering to assist with this event, please reach out to **Helen Lira** (helen@chilira.com).

Until next month,
Erin Hunter
WWCA President



Give your old pumpkin
new life as compost!

PUMPKIN DROP-OFF

Free at all
City of Chicago
Food Scrap Drop-Off locations



Find a location near you at
Chicago.gov/pumpkincomposting



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

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
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| Treasurer | Stephen Brown |

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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**.

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**.



St. Edward School Events

Holiday Fun for Families at St. Edward School

Save the date for **Breakfast with Santa** at **St. Edward!**

The event will take place on **Sunday, December 7**. Visit our website to purchase tickets or call the school office for more information. Bring a toy to donate to our annual toy drive that benefits the **St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry**.

Discover the St. Edward School difference by joining us for upcoming tours of our award winning PK3 - 8th grade school. Upcoming tour dates include **November 19, December 10**, and our Open House on **January 25**. Register for a tour date on our website.

Join us "under the sea" at the St. Edward School production of **The Little Mermaid Jr** on **December 12 and 13**. More information on show times can be found on our school website. Admission is free.

St. Edward Parish was founded in 1899 and has been serving the Mayfair and Irving Park communities' spiritual needs for over 125 years. Spend Advent with us; follow us on social media @stedparish or visit our website **www.stedparish.org** to see the various ways you can be part of our family of faith. If you're interested in our award-winning school for your child, visit our school website **www.stedwardchicago.org**.



Is Now A Good Time to Sell?



SOLD

4122 N Lawndale



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4037 N Hamlin



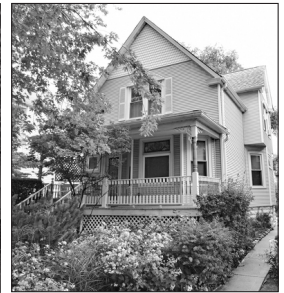
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4340 N Springfield



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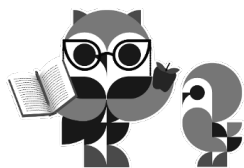
"Dorie was an exceptional agent to work with for our recent home sale. She offers a wealth of experience and top-notch service. She came to the table with a personalized marketing plan that was tailored to our property and area, including competitive analysis and a go-to-market approach that brought interest and offers right away. We'd recommend her to anyone looking to transact in the Chicagoland area!" -- Bill Kenefick



Dorie Westmeyer
Realtor,® MBA, ADPR
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If you're thinking of selling in the next 12 months, please call me for a free home consultation.

Neighbor since 1995 • 847-989-4870 • CHARLES RUTENBERG REALTY • **Dorie@DorieWestmeyer.com**



Chicago Public Library, Independence Branch

Monday & Wednesday 10-6 / Tuesday & Thursday 12-8

Friday & Saturday 9-5 / Sunday 1-5

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.

Story Time For ages up to 5.

Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Talk, sing, read, write, and stay to play with us!

Make Your Mark For ages 6+

Tuesday, November 11 and 25 at 4:30 pm

Bead painting / Jewelry making

Cookie Club For kids

Thursday, November 13 at 4:30 pm

Kids book club --- read and eat cookies!

Fix Your Fit

Thursday, November 13 at 4:30 pm

Emerging adults, ages 17-25, add basic tailoring and mending to your life skills arsenal.

Pixel Party

Tuesday, November 18 at 4:30 pm

Use provided pixel patterns to create decorations or use your imagination to make your own.

Lego Play For ages 5+

Thursday, November 20 at 4:30 pm

Build and inspire others with your creations. All builds will be displayed with a juice box reception to follow.

Community Cinema

Saturday, November 22

11:00 am: *Smurfs*, 2025, PG

1:00 pm: *Thunderbolts*, 2025, PG-13

Silent Book Club

Sunday, November 23 at 2:00 pm

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



BE PART OF THE CONVERSATION

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE CROSSTOWN TRAIL

Join the virtual town hall to explore the Crosstown Trail vision.



Thursday, November 13

6:00-7:30 p.m. | Online via Zoom

Hosted by Alderperson Fuentes and Commissioner Vásquez



Check out the upcoming family concerts at the **Color Club** in West Walker:

Laura Doherty & The Heartbeats
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 -- 10 AM

Tunes w Tim: Holiday Singalong Family Concert
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 -- 10 AM

Jabberwocky Marionettes
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20 -- 10 AM



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**Carlson
Community
Services**

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

News and Events

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

Trivia Night on Saturday, November 15

All are invited to attend Carlson Community Services' annual Trivia Night fundraiser on **Saturday, November 15** in the **Irving Park Lutheran Church** gym at **4057 N. Harding Avenue**. Doors will open at **6:30 pm** with trivia beginning promptly at **7:00 pm**.

As Carlson's largest fundraiser of the year, Trivia Night has become a beloved community event, supporting Carlson's Magic After-School Place, Three Brothers Garden, and free fine arts concert series. Teams of eight (8) can purchase a table for \$300 (\$325 after November 7) and will compete for a \$250 cash prize and bragging rights!

For more information, and to register your team, visit our Facebook page or website at www.carlsoncommunityservices.org/events/. This event is open to adults 21 and over. Wine, beer and soda will be sold. Join your neighbors for a great night out in support of Carlson Community Services!



Three Brothers Garden donates nearly 600 lbs in 2025

The 2025 growing season in Three Brothers Garden has come to an end. We harvested 515 pounds of fresh vegetables and herbs from TBG and added 78 pounds from generous neighborhood gardeners through our Plant A Row for the Hungry program for a total of 593 pounds of fresh vegetables and herbs donated to our partners at the **Irving Park Community Food Pantry**. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who spent nearly **200** volunteer hours in the garden and did not miss one Tuesday harvest or Wednesday morning delivery. See you in the Spring!



Irving Park Fine Arts Holiday Concert on December 14

Mark your calendar for our holiday concert on **Sunday, December 14** at **2:00 pm** at **Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Avenue**.

Our second concert of the season, **Eclectic Holidays**, will feature a joyous collection of holiday favorites and some not-so-well-known numbers, including a set of songs from the American Music Theater. Vocalists **Tamara Bodnar, Christopher Richard** and **Stephanie Stockstill** will be joined by **Roger Bingaman** on piano. A festive reception will follow the December concert.

For more information, visit carlsoncommunityservices.org or contact Sara Yoest at sarayoest@carlsoncommunityservices.org.

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Psalms 129:8b

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– Chelsea B.

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Irving Park Community Food Pantry News

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

Thanksgiving Program Help Needed

Volunteers at the Irving Park Food Pantry are preparing for our special holiday programs. In November, clients will receive a package of meat and fixings for a Thanksgiving meal for their family members. The package will be given out throughout the month during our regular distributions on **November 5, 11, 12, and 19**. We'll be closed on **November 26**.

If you would like to help, monetary donations can be made via PayPal at www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org or via a check to **Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago IL 60618**. You can mark your donation for "Thanksgiving" if you prefer.

You also can donate certain items to help, comprising canned corn, canned mixed vegetables, canned fruit, and boxes of stuffing. Donations can be taken to the Pantry on **Monday mornings** between **8 am** and **11 am** or the **Big Helpers** store at **4184 N. Elston Avenue** from **10 am** to **4 pm** from **Monday through Friday**. They can be taken to the front porches at **3912 N. Kenneth Avenue** or **4242 N. Hamlin Avenue** anytime.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our drive to provide clients and their families with hats, scarves, and gloves during our October distributions. Thanks also to all the companies and elected officials who provided drop boxes to help collect items. We appreciate so much support for this new program and for all the support we receive to help us meet our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"

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 Avenue**.

For more information, please contact:

John Psiharis

Executive Director

773/283-6296

e-mail: info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org

Web: www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org

Outreach Director **Betsy Melchers**, along with **Carol Sheehan** and **Judy Murphy**, from **Clarendale Six Corners** senior residences, visited the Pantry to talk with Executive Director **John Psiharis** about ways the residents can provide support.



Lisa Hendricks shows off the variety of plants donated in September by **Farmers Market Garden Center** as they cleared out their summer plantings.

Julie Egeland, a volunteer at the **Portage Park Farmer's Market**, delivered a huge donation—1,200 items!—collected at the Market in late September through a program involving the election of the market's **Pet Mayor**. Photo by **Laura Barnes**



Dan Rosenberg (second from right), a transition specialist at **Ridgewood High School** in Norridge, brought in his students to help at a distribution, during which our regular volunteer **Monica** (left of Dan) discovered she used to be the kids' teacher! Photo by **Meredith O'Sullivan**

Jackie Dupon made one of her regular deliveries to the Pantry of donations from the congregation of **St. Viator & Wenceslaus Church**. Volunteer **Bob Christensen** helped bring in the carload of groceries.



Irving Park Lutheran Church

News & Events

Irving Park Lutheran Church is located at 3938 W. Belle Plaine Avenue and Sunday worship is at 10:30 am.

More information is available at <https://www.iplc.org/>

Sharing a Ministry of Caring Presence, Cards, and/or Holy Communion

Several members of Irving Park Lutheran Church, as well as its Pastor, regularly visit people who are homebound, hospitalized, or experiencing health or other crises. These people extend the care and grace of the church, delivering companionship, connection, and/or holy communion. Still others regularly send cards to people. If you know of someone who might benefit from such a visit, or if you would like to be someone who makes these visits or sends cards, contact Pastor Bouman. We also regularly and publicly bless this ministry in worship and will do so again on **Sunday, November 16.**

Packing Meals for The Night Ministry November 16, Guest Speaker

The third and fourth grade Sunday school students of Irving Park Lutheran Church will do a Service Project on **Sunday, November 16**, packing 100 meals for **The Night Ministry**. The meals will be blessed in worship and we'll also hear a special announcement from a Night Ministry staff member. The Night Ministry compassionately provides housing, health care, outreach, spiritual care, and social services to adults and youth who struggle with homelessness, poverty, and loneliness. Sunday school students are encouraged to shop with their families to purchase meal supplies. Additional meal supplies from others are also welcome and needed. Sign up on the website: **www.iplc.org**

Hanging of the Greens
Saturday, November 29 at 10 am

Everyone is invited to join us on **Saturday, November 29** to get the church ready for Advent and Christmas. This is a great activity for families—bring children and grandchildren! There's beautiful, meaningful decorations to arrange; there'll be coffee and juice and Pastor Bouman will bring homemade cinnamon rolls.

Independence Parka

by erica dreisbach



Donate
to our
**Community
Food Pantries**

Restoried Bookshop 📍 4613 N Kedzie

The Scent Queens 📍 3728 W Montrose

Nighthawk 📍 4744 N Kimball



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ALBANY PARK
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How to Give and Get Help This November

Let's kick off the winter season well by caring for our neighbors. In addition to the **Irving Park Community Food Pantry** (see page 7), there are other ways to give and receive locally this November.

WAYS TO GIVE:

- Monetary or in-kind donations
- Volunteering your time
- Hosting a donation drive at your school or church
- Build awareness by sharing donation links with your network

ORGANIZATIONS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

Albany Park Community Fund

The Albany Park Community Fund uses donations to support our neighborhood families with meals and formula to ensure kids and their families have what they need in this season.



Albany Park Mutual Aid

APMA have been helping with grocery deliveries to folks who may not want to leave their homes right now. Their contact information can be found on their website: <https://www.albanyparkmutualaid.com/>

Albany Park Mutual Aid - Free Store

3000 W. Lawrence
Mondays 5 - 9 pm
Wednesdays 5 - 9 pm
Saturdays 12 - 4 pm

North River Commission Affected Families Fund

For more information, please visit:

https://www.northrivercommission.org/donate-affected-families?mc_cid=b1e4a2fd45&mc_eid=670121a139

North River Commission Community Pantries

NEARBY FOOD PANTRIES:

Cullom / Central Park Neighborhood Food Cabinet

NW corner of Cullom and Central Park

24 / 7 access pantry

Food items only please!

No books, clothing, or toys.

*"We can all take sometimes,
we can all give sometimes,
and nobody is better for
having done one or the other
and nobody is worse."*

-Nicolle Wood



Drake Garden Food Pantry

4643 N Drake Avenue

24/7 access pantry

The Love Fridge @ St. John's Episcopal Church

3857 N. Kostner Avenue

24/7 access fridge and pantry

<https://www.thelovefridge.com/>

Harvest Christian Center Chicago Food Pantry

4020 N. Tripp Ave.

773-685-4222

office@hccChicago.org

Last Friday of the month | 1:30 - 2:30 PM

New Hope Community Food Pantry

6125 W Foster

773-775-1215

Tuesday | 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Joined Hands Food Pantry / Our Lady of Victory

5212 W Agatite

(312) 972-1164

jhfoodpantry@gmail.com

Wednesdays | 5:00 - 7:00 PM

**The strength of a community lies
in the unity of its neighbors.**

Thank you to
renewing member:

Connie Engel

Renew your West Walker membership today!

Your annual dues help us fund printing the Wire, host special events, and operate our website.

Renewing is quick and easy. Visit westwalkercivic.org and navigate to **"Become a Member"** today!

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!

FALL LEAVES ARE FALLING - LET'S KEEP THEM OFF OUR STREETS!

It's fall, and that's exactly what the leaves are doing — falling from Chicago's trees. Help us keep our streets, curbs, and gutters clean and safe!



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- **Remove leaves** that fall into the street in front of your residence.
- **Reuse them** as mulch in your yard.
- Bag them and **call 311** for a yard waste pickup.



DO NOT sweep or rake leaves into the street.

Doing so is a **violation of City Ordinance** and can **clog the sewer system**, leading to flooding, ice over the upcoming winter months, and other issues.



SPREAD THE WORD!

Share this message with your **family, friends, and neighbors**. Together, we can make our neighborhoods cleaner and safer.

Thank you for doing your part to make your community a better place to live!



WINTER Clothing Drive 2025

Donate Winter Clothing to Keep Our Community Warm

We are accepting donations through February 2026

Drop-off locations:

- Rogers Park - 1400 West Greenleaf Ave.
- Albany Park - 3737 West Lawrence Ave.
- Chatham - 8541 S. State St. (Wednesday only 8:30am to 5:00pm)

As temperatures fall, many struggle to access warm clothing. Trilogy aids adults and children with a mental illness and seeks donations of gently used winter clothing (coats, hats, gloves and winter boots), particularly larger sizes. Your generosity can enhance their dignity and well-being. Let's collectively spread warmth and kindness in our community!

Any Questions? Feel free to contact Clothingdonation@trilogyinc.org
To learn more about Trilogy's programs, please visit Trilogyinc.org



★★★★★

Let's make a difference in our neighborhood together!

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

To create the 2026 Strategic Plan

17th DISTRICT

1st Conversation

October 23, 2025 6pm-8pm

Salvation Army 5020 N. Pulaski Rd.

2nd Conversation

November 10, 2025 6pm-8pm

IAHC 4626 N. Knox Ave.

To Register, Scan the QR or Visit: chicagopolice.org/convo

For more information or if you require special accommodation, contact the District Community Policing Office at: (312) 742-4588

Email: CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org

QR CODE

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS FOR PARENTS & SCHOOLS

THURS, NOV 13 | 6:00-7:30PM

VIRTUAL! REGISTER AT: [BIT.LY/CIRRKYR](https://bit.ly/cirrkkr)

- Know Your Rights
- Increased ICE Activity: What to Expect and How to Prepare
- Emergency Family Planning
- Immigration Updates

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COOK COUNTY JUDICIAL BRANCH

COMMUNITIES

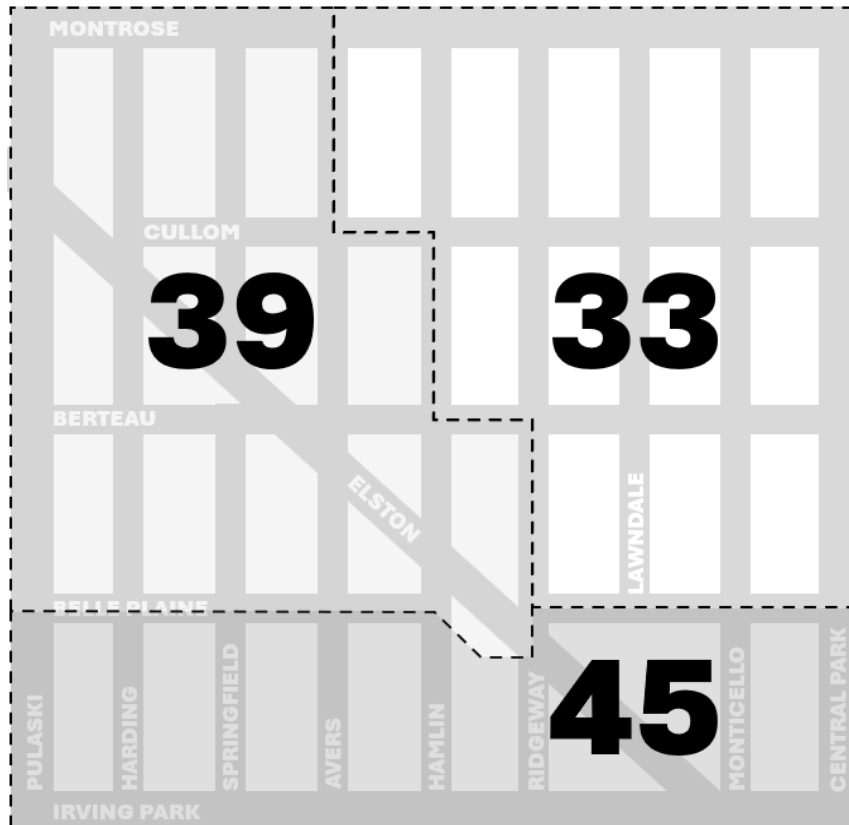
metropolitan family services

iac

PARENT UNIVERSITY

LAW OFFICE OF JOHN MANGARDINER

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

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